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3. That the affairs of the Society be conducted by a Council, consisting of a permanent President and Vice-President, and twelve other members, including a Treasurer and Secretary, all of whom shall be elected, the first two at the general meeting next after a vacancy shall occur, and the twelve other members at the general meeting annually.
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Vol. 3. Lancashire and Cheshire Wills and Inventories at Chester, with an Appendix of Abstracts of Wills now Lost or Destroyed. Transcribed by the late Rev. G. J. PICCOPE, M.A. Edited by J. P. EARWAKER, M.A., F.S.A. *pp.* x. 262.

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Vol. 18. The History of the Church and Manor of Wigan. Part IV. By the Hon. and Rev. CANON BRIDGEMAN. *pp.* 685–836. *(Conclusion.)*

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Vol. 21. Lives of the Fellows of the College of Manchester. By the late F. R. Raines, M.A. Edited by FRANK RENAUD, M.D. *pp.* xiv. 210.

EIGHTH YEAR (1889–90).

Vol. 22. The Minutes of the Manchester Presbyterian Classis, 1646–1660. Part II. *pp.* 83–281.

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MINUTES

OF THE

Manchester Presbyterian Classis,

1646–1660.

EDITED BY

WILLIAM A. SHAW, M.A.,

Berkeley Fellow of Owens College.

PART II.

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The Minutes of the Manchester Classis.

PART II.

[*For an Account of all the Ministers mentioned in these Minutes see the Appendix.*]

The 19th MEETING at Manchester, May 3°, 1648.

1.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begunne with prayer.

2.—Members of the severall congregationall elderpps deputed to this meeting appear'd:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Ed. Johnson, Tho. Smith, Robt. Bradshaw, Raph Bridocke, elders.

Prestwich: Mr. Furnes, minister; Peter Sergeant, James Wroe, elders.

Eccles (Mr. Jones sicke): Tho. Edge, Tho. Fylds, elders.

Flixton:

Ashton-under-line: Mr. Harison, minister; Edw. Heywood, Robt Bardsley, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Wm. Booth, John Gee, elders.

Newton:

Chollerton: Mr. Benson, minister; John Barlow, elder.

Ringley:

3.—Richard Cooper of Ouldham parish, beinge under the civill magistrate now, there is a warrant to bee granted to fetch him in, if hee bee at libertie, and Anne Dunkerley, the next classe.

4.—This classe renewes their request to Mr. Angier and Mr. Clayton, and Captaine William Booth to deale with the elders elect of Didsburie that they would execute theire office.

5.—John Shelmerdine, of Rusholme, yeoman, aged eighteene yeares, deposed saith that Nathaniel Tayler said that his brother Samuel went about to defraud his brother Isaac of his porcion, and made a longe discourse in the presence of manie men, amongst whom one man which this deponent knowes not, said to Nathaniel, if Samuel Tayler bee such a man I wonder you suffer him to live amongst you; and Nathaniel answered that hee thought hee was as coarse a man as lives, if hee bee not a theefe or a murtherer; and that hee caused his brother Isaac to spend some parte of his porcion, 10th or 11th, to get the rest; the occasion of this discourse was that this deponent asked the said Nathaniel whether Samuel and hee were agreed about the doore, and thereupon hee entred into this discourse. John Shelmerdine.

6.—The minister of Eccles sicke.

7.—Mr. Walker at Sadleworth exercise the elders absent.

8.—Mr. Holland absent.

9.—Mr. Woolmer of Flixton and the elders absent.

10.—Mr. Clayton desired to bee excused.

11.—Nathaniel Taylor brought in a paper of complaint against his brother Samuel, and it was taken in, and hee desired that his paper might have the precedencie before his brother Samuel. The classe answered that Samuel first complayned and must bee first heard, else they should violate both justice and order.

12.—The said Nathaniel was desired to bring in his answeare to his brothers complaint.

13.—The order, concerninge the man that brought in the charge against Mr. Woolmer to give an account to the next classis whether he will insist it or no, continued.

14.—Mr. Benson was desired, and hee promised, to sit as an eldership with the elders of Chorlton, and they are desired to proceede to elect more elders.

15.—A meetinge to bee at Preston the first Tuesday in June;

Mr. Angier and Mr. Harrison desired to be at Preston at that meetinge.

16.—Ouldham congregation desire that they might not bee pressed to set up the goverm^{tt} at present because of some obstruccions (though they bee willinge and desireouse of it), but they hope these obstructions will shortly be removed.

And they have time given them till the next classe to see if those obstructions bee then removed.

The next classe to bee the second Wednesday of June. Mr. Furnace, moderator.

The 20th MEETINGE at Manchester, June 14, 1648.

1.—Mr. Furnace, moderator, begunne with prayer.

2.—Members of severall congregations elderships deputed to this meetinge appear'd :—

Manchester Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Richard Meare, Thomas Dickonson, John Brownsword, Rowland Wright, elders.

Prestwich: Mr. Toby Furnesse, minister; James Wroe, John Scoles, elders.

Eccles: John Jones, minister; Thomas Rogers, Thomas Warburton, elders.

Newton: Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Denton: John Angier, minister; Robert Hyde, William Booth, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harrison, minister; Robert Ashton, Robert Leech, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Thos. Holland, minister; Peter Seddon, John Walworth, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister.

Didsburie: Mr. Clayton, minister.

From Flixton neither minister nor elders appeared.

3.—It was ordred that the busines concerninge the congregation of Ouldham shal bee called upon the next classis.

4.—Mr. Anthonie Allen desired ordination, brought a certificate of his ability & good liffe and conversation; he sheweth a request & desire from manie of the people at Ouston, in Lincolnshire, that hee might bee there minister. It is enjoyned unto him to bringe a certificate to the next classis that the saide place is without a minister, and that hee hath the consent of the patron.

5.—A letter is to bee written to the members of the congregation at Ouston to give them notice what is required of us by Mr. Allen, and to desire of them satisfaction that no other minister hath right unto, or is in the place, and that Mr. Allen hath the consent of the patron.

6.—Mr. Walton came to the classis and shewed his dismission from the congregation of Horwich, and a dismission from the congregation of Boulton; and Samuel Tayler, one of the members at Blakeley, witnesseth hee had the assent and desire of the people at Blakeley to be theire minister. It was ordered more of the congregation should come the next classis to give satisfaction thereof.

7.—Nathaniel Tayler, haveing divers tymes abused the classis, and this day in the face of the courte did charge the courte to deale unjustly, and hath given out very scandelous & false reports against Mr. Hollinworth, preacher of Gods word at Manchester, scandalizeinge the said Mr. Hollinworth before the classis, and of such things as are knowne to most of the members thereof to bee false and untrue, whereof the classis cleared him.

8.—The classis hath admonished him, and should bee glad to see his reformation, w^{ch}, if admonition doe not worke him unto that they conceive it fitt further to proceede against him.

9.—John Barlowe, elder at Chorlton, did witnes that the said Nathaniel Tayler desired him to goe and tell Mr. Hollinworth that hee was a dishonest man; secondly, an unjust man; thirdly, hee supposed hee was drunke or madd, or els that what hee did in the classis was of purpose to doe him wronge in his busines.

10.—It is requested by the classis that Mr. Angier, Mr. Clayton, and William Booth shall conferre with those elected for elders at Disburie, & see if they can perswade them to accepte of thare office, and return their answers to the classis there next meetinge.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The next classis is to bee the 12th of July.

Mr. Walker moderator next classis.

The 21st MEETINGE at Manchester, July 12°, 1648.

1.—Mr. Walker, moderator, begunn with prayer.

2.—Mr. Walton manifested the desire of the congregation at Blakeley to have him to bee theire minister by a further testimonie of Joseph Costerdine, Lawrance Walworke, Thomas Clough, John Scoales, and William Cheetham, who affirmed they were sent by the congregation there to testifie their assent as afforesaid.

3. It is thought fitt that Mr. Walton proceede according to ordinance of Parliamtt [1] to make a preparatory sermon, and soe to proceede to election of elders in his the said congregation with what convenient speed he cann.

4. The busines that concerneth Ouldham is continued and ordered to bee called upon the next classis.

5. Mr. Benson, minister at Chorlton, brought a note whereunto the name of Nathaniel Taylor is subscribed, which hee saith Nathaniel Tayler desired him to deliver to the classis.

6.—It is ordered the said Nathaniel Tayler shal be summoned

[1] Directions for the election of elders (19 August, 1645, L. J., vii. 544): 2. "That notice of such election (of a parochial and congregational eldership) and of the day when shall be given by the minister in the public assembly the next Lord's day but one; before and on the said Lord's day a sermon be preached preparatory to that weighty business." The direction is repeated verbatim in subsequent ordinances for church government (*e.g.*, of 5 March, 164⅝. C. J., iv. 463).

to appeare the next classis to know wheather hee will avouch the said note, and to answere such matters as shall then bee objected against him.

7.—Mr. Angier, Mr. Clayton, and William Booth are still desired to deale with those elected elders at Didsburie to accepte theire office before the next classis.

8.—Mr. Hollinworth gave accounte of Mr. Harrison and his journey to Preston by the appointment of the classis, viz.:

First.—That there was an appearance from each classis.

Secondly.—That all those that appeared did agree that they may acte provincially, and appoint time and place & delegates for the provintiall assemblie upon the late ordinance of Parliament.[1]

Thirdly.—That the first provincial meeteinge to bee the eight of August next in the Church at Preston, and Mr. Ambrose to preach the same day, at tenne of the clocke.

Fourthly.—That three ministers and six ruleinge elders shal bee delegated to the provinciall assemblie from everie classis, and have letters of credence from the moderator of the said classis under his hands.

9.—These are elected by the classis to goe to the provintiall assemblie on August the eight next: Mr. Harrison, Mr. Angier, Mr. Hollinworth, of ministers; for elders, Mr. Egerton, Mr. Hyde, Mr. Howorth, Mr. Sergeant, Mr. Johnson.

The next classis to bee the first of August next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

Mr. Holland had his thesis lent him till next classis.

Mr. Harrison moderator the next classis.

10.—It was this day agreed in the classis that every minister in this classis should in there severall congregations give notice of the provintiall assemblie August the eight, & shall instructe there people touching the nature, use, and benefite thereof, and desire there congregations joyntly and earnestly to pray to the

[1] See *supra* note, Part I., p. 19.

Lord for his blessinge upon that meeting the next nationall fast day.[1]

The 22nd MEETINGE at Manchester, August 1°, 1648.

1.—Mr. Harrison, moderator, begunne with prayer.

2.—Members of severll congregations eldershipps deputed to the meeteinge appeared.

3.—Mr. Holland of Ringley had his Thesis lent him still untill the next classis.

4.—Delegats appointed by the first classis wthin the province of the countie of Lancaster for the provintial Assemblie at Preston, the eight of August, 1648.

5.—Ministers: Mr. John Angier, Mr. John Harrison, Mr. Richard Hollinworth.

Rullinge Elders.	Peter Egerton Robert Hyde Richard Haworth	esquires	Robert Ashton Peter Sergeant Edward Johnson	gent.

6.—The unwillingenes of those chosen elders for Didsburie to undergoe there office was certifyed by a note under there hands delivered in by William Booth.

7.—Certaine things were reade and approved to bee propounded to the provintiall assemblie, and submitted thereunto by the delegates assigned from this classis, and the moderator is to subscribe the same.

8.—Some to attest that Nathaniel Tayler was summoned by the precepte issued forth the last classis: is desired to bee brought in the next classis.

[1] It was very shortly before this (sometime before the 10th August, 1648; see *Civil War Tracts*, p. 253) that the Ministers of Lancashire had published their "Harmonious consent with the . . . Ministers of . . . London in their late testimony to . . . our Solemn League and Covenant." The Cheshire attestation is dated June 6, 1648; at least a dozen "attestations" are known. How many more were actually drawn up in other parts is uncertain. But it was a time of great apprehension to the Presbyterian party.

9.—Mr. Benson absent this classis.

10.—The ministers & elders of Flixton absent.

The next classis appointed to bee on Wednesday the 5th of September. Mr. Hollinworth to bee moderator.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 23rd MEETEINGE at Manchester, September 5th, 1648.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begunne with prayer.

2.—None of the eldershippe of Flixton appeared.

3.—Mr. Benson, minister of Chorlton, sent his excuse for not appeareinge, that hee was not in health, etc.; excuse was allowed.

4.—There appeared severll other eldershipps to the number appointed for a classe.[1]

5.—It was reported from the Provintiall Meeteinge at Preston that exception was taken for that all the elders delegated from this classis did not appeare. It was for their excuse declared that they were of the comittee for this countie, and that the necessitie of the affaires of the countie would not in regard of the present dangers permitt there then appeareinge at that tyme.

6. The result of debate then had was that they appointed a

[1] The country was greatly disturbed from May onwards in this year by the impending march of Hamilton. The battle of Preston was fought on the 17th of August, 1648, followed by the victory of Colonel General Ashton at Appleby, October 9th. The state of affairs had affected the attendance at the classis, as well as that of the provincial meeting. It is not until the following March that the lists of attendant elders are resumed. The effects of the battle of Preston on Lancashire Presbyterianism is traceable in these minutes.

The committee for the county had been appointed by the ordinance of 29th August, 1645. The names of this committee will be found in *Civil War Tracts*, p. 210. The only elders delegated to Preston from the Manchester classis who were on the county committee were Peter Egerton and Richard Howorth. Another delegate to Preston had been added to the committee for sequestrations for Lancashire by the ordinance of 10th March, 164⅞. (L. J., x. 107). To the rest of the delegated elders the remark in minute 5 does not in truthfulness apply.

Provintiall Meeteinge to bee at Preston on the first Tuesday in October next. It is agreed the next classis shall bee on Fryday, the nyne and twentieth day of this present September.

7.—Mr. Alexander Gilbert offred himselfe to ordination, asserted that hee commenced M^{r} of Artes in Scotland and tooke the Nationall Covenn^{tt} there. It appeared his call was to a place in another classis, therefore his examinacion was not proceeded in, but referred to the classis for ordination.

8.—Mr. Thomas Nicholson offred himselfe to ordinacon. It was required that hee bringe a certificate that hee hath taken the Nationall Covenn^{tt}, and a testimonie from the classis where hee hath lived of his life and conversacon, and of his diligence and proficiencie in his studie. Hee desired approbacon to preach at Stretford, but the classis did not assent to approbacon before examinacion.

9.—Samuel Pendleton, chosen an elder for Blakeley chappell, came to bee examined, was examined and approved for his knowledge.

10.—Samuel Tayler, chosen in like manner for the same place, was examined and approved for his knowledge.

11.—John Travis, chosen elder for the same place of Blakeley afforesaid, was examined and approved for his knowledge.

12.—John Roson, chosen elder for the same place, was examined and approved for his knowledge.

13.—Nathaniel Taylor appeared and excused his not appeareinge the last classis, for that the waters were soe out hee could not goe to the towne. The businesse betwixt Samuel Taylor and his brother Nathaniel is yet deferred till an other tyme; hee brought in a scandalous paper w^{ch} he pretended to bee an appeale.

The moderator appointed for the next classis, September the nyne and twentieth, is Mr. Angier.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 24th MEETEINGE at Manchester, September 29°, 1648.

1.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begunne with prayer.

2.—None of the elders for Flixton appeared.

3.—There appeared elderpps from the severall congregations to the number appointed for a classis.

4.—There was a peticon brought in and attest by foure men from Ouldham against the validitie of the eleccon of elders at Ouldham. The heareinge of the busines was deferred till the next classis.

5.—In the meantyme twoe ministers are desired to meete & heare the differences amongst the members of the congregation, and compose the differences amongst them and give account what they doe therein the next classis.

Mr. Harrison and Mr. Angier are desired to be the ministers.

6.—Mr. Durie came to this classis after advice received, manifested his willingenes to bee ordayned minister at Gorton ; hee was admitted to come to examination the next classis that hee can with conveniencie.

7.—Ministers delegated to goe to the provintiall assemblie at Preston on Tuesday, the third of October, 1648: Mr. Angier, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Constantyne.

Elders appointed to goe to Preston: John Brownsword, Peter Seddon, John Wright, Richard Meare, Thomas Rogers, Hugh Tayler.

8.—There was instructions that were appointed to bee tendred the last provinciall meeteinge at Preston to the Assemblie there. It is agreed that they shall bee commended to the next provintiall assemblie now to bee held at Preston afforesaid, by those delegated ministers and elders to goe from this classis to the said provinciall meetinge.

9.—Delegates of the first classis of the countie Palatine of Lancaster for the provintiall assemblie at Preston, the first

Tuesday of October, 1648: John Angier, John Harrison, Robert Constantine ministers; and John Brownsword, Richard Meare, John Wright, Peter Seddon, Thomas Rogers, Hughe Tayler, ruleinge elders. Subscribed in the name of the said classis by John Angier, moderator *pro tempore.*

10.—Ordered publicke notice bee given in the parish church of Prestwich that Mr. Furnesse, haveing a call to Bury, desireth dismission from the classis from Prestwich. They are to come in to shew cause to the contrarie if they have cause.

Moderator ended with prayer.

Mr. Heyricke chosen moderator the next classis.

Next classis October 7th, 1648.

The 25th MEETEINGE at Manchester, the 7th October, 1648.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, chosen in the absence of Mr. Heyricke, and begune with prayer.

2.—There came some of the congregacon of Rostorne and declared that they were desireouse to have Mr. Martindale to bee there minister at Rostorne afforesaid, and hee with them desired ordination from this classis. They tendred a certificate to manifest his call to the place under the hands of above 268 of the said congregacon; hee delivred in a certificate of his age, that he was 25 yeares of age, and hee brought likewise a certificate that hee had taken the Nationall Covennt. Hee was admitted to examination to the end the classis might receive satisfaccon for his fitness for the ministrie, and soe might certifie the same to the comittee above, to the end his civill right might bee cleared to Rostorne aforesaid. Hee was approved so far as hee was proceeded with in his examination.

3.—There were certaine instruccons read & agreed to bee commended by the delegats to the provintiall Assemblie.

4.—And certaine instruccons likewise are appointed to bee by

the delegats commended to the comittee if anie be chosen, or otherwise debated in the assemblie as reasons and meanes to attaine the generalls propounded to the assemblie.

5.—Ministers delegated to goe to the provintiall assemblie at Preston the 14th of this instant Novembris [*sic* an error for October] are: Mr. Richard Heyricke, Mr. John Harrison, Mr. John Angier. Elders delegated: Mr. Robt. Ashton, Wm. Booth, Richard Meare, John Brownsword, James Wroe, Rowland Wright.

6.—Mr. Anthonie Allen came to the classis and brought a presentation from the patron at Ouston & satisfyed the classis of the vacancie of the place at Ouston; hee is admitted to examinacon and approved so farr as hee was proceeded with in examination.

7.—Mr. Joseph Kellet came out of Notinghamshire to desire ordination. Hee brought certificates of his call to Hauton, neere Newarke, affirmed he was Batcheloure in arts, brought testimonie of his good liffe and conversacon and fittnes for the ministrie; was admitted to examination, and approved soe farr as was proceeded with in his examinacon.

8.—Mr. Thomas Fowler came out of the countie of Derbie, brought a testimonie of his call [to] Sandiacre in the said countie, and testimonie of his good life & conversacon & fittnes for the ministrie; was admitted to examinacon, and was approved soe farr as hee was proceeded with in his examination.

The question given to Mr. Kellet—*an sint distincti ordines presbiterorum.* Affir.

The question given to Mr. Fowler—*an presbyteri sint ejusdem ordinis.* Affir.

The question given to Mr. Martindale—*an liceat mere privatis in ecclesia constituta publice concionare.* Neg.

The question given to Mr. Allen—*an gratia salvifica possit amitti.* Neg.

9.—Those of the congregation at Ouldham that had peticioned against the eleccon of elders at Ouldham were appointed

to bringe in there exceptions, if they have any more then are in their peticon, the next classis.

10.—There is noe cause shewed by anie of the congregation of Prestwich to hinder Mr. Furness his dismission from that place.

11.—This day there was a peticon preferred to this classis from manie of the parishioners of Prestwich takeinge notice of Mr. Furnesse intention to remove from thence, and desireinge noe minister may bee placed there wthout the consent of the major part of the parishioners.

It was agreed to give them answeare that the classis hath taken their peticon into consideration, & will give them due and meete satisfaccon accordinge to there desire.

12.—The next classis is to bee on Tuesday, the 21th of this present November, the fast the day followinge for the ordination. Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Furnesse, & Mr. Constantine are to pray and preach.

Mr. Hollinworth is to bee moderator next classis.

13.—A certificate given to Mr. Martindale for his approvall soe farre as examined: a coppie taken of it.

This day none of the parishioners of Prestwich came in to the classis to shewe any cause wherefore Mr. Furnesse should not bee dismissed from that congregation, and therefore the classis doth grante him dismission from Prestwich afforesaid, with a desire that God would blesse him in his removeall.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 26th MEETEINGE at Manchester, the 21^{o} November, 1648.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begunne with prayer.

2.—There appeared divers of the parishioners of Rostorne; delivered a writeinge unto w^{ch} their names were subscribed, and by such as were there present attested, and subscribed by a

publicke notarie as they said who was present and attested it, wherein they objected against Mr. Martindals ordination.

3.—It was resolved not to proceede to ordaine the said Mr. Martindale to Rostorne till the tytle he had to the place were cleared.[1]

4.—Mr. Athonie Allen, Mr. Joseph Kellett, Mr. Thomas Fowler did all bringe in their thesis, & disputed and were approved and resolved to proceed to ordayne them.

The next classis on Tuesday this day moneth.

Mr. Walker to bee moderator.

Mr. Hollinworth beinge moderator ended with prayer.

5.—November 22, 1648:

Mr. Anthonie Allen was ordayned minister to Ouston in Lincolnshire.

Mr. Joseph Kellet ordayned minister to Hawton in Nottinghamshire.

Mr. Thomas Fowler ordayned minister to Sandiacre in Darbishire.

The 27th MEETEINGE at Manchester, 19th December, 1648.

1.—Mr. Walker, moderator, begunne with prayer.

2.—It is appointed that such instructions as were given to the elders delegated to the provintiall assemblie last at Preston, toucheinge things to bee proposed to a comittee of the said assemblie as from this classis should [be observed] by such of the said delegates as are appointed to bee of the Comittee at

[1] Compare Martindale's own account of this *Autobiog.*, p. 82 *seq.* At Gorton there had been no need of his performing ministerial functions such as baptism, administration of the sacrament, etc. At Rostherne this was necessary, and it would seem to be this, and his anxiety to get an order for the arrears, that overcame his scruples about ordination by presbyters. Impatient of the slowness of the Manchester classis, he withdrew, and was ordained in London, July 25, 1649, by the 8th London classis at the Church of St. Andrew, Undershaft.

Wigan appointed by the aforesaid assemblie [and they], shall tender the said matters and proposals to the said comittee at Wigan.

3.—Mr. Durie is nominated and appointed to preach before the classis the next classicall meeteinge, and after is to come to examinacon.

4.— The parishioners at Ouldham were appointed to produce witnesses to prove theire exceptions against the election of elders at Ouldham the next classis.

5.—Nathaniel Tayler was called, and his complaints against his brother viewed, and found to consist of matters not proper for the classis to deale with, excepte it were one thinge which hee denyed to have heard except all might bee examined.

The next classis is appointed to bee on Tuesday the 16th of Januarie next. Mr. Harrison to bee moderator.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 28th MEETEINGE at Manchester, 16 Januarie, 164$\frac{8}{9}$.

1.—Mr. Harrison, moderator, begunne with prayer.

2.—Mr. Meeke, minister of Salford, is appointed to preach the next classicall meeteinge.

3.—Mr. Durie, minister of Gorton, preached before the classis, and thanks rendered him for his paines.

4.—Hee brought a certificate for his liffe and conversacon, and likewise a certificate touchinge his eleccon to the church of Gorton. Hee had a position given him—viz., *an dies dominicus sit moralis. Affirmative tenet.* His examination in the tongues and arts is deferred to the next meeteinge.

5.—The people of Ouldham are to have notice for to bringe in there probation of theire exceptions against the election of elders by them inhibited, against the next classicall meeteinge,

and upon defecte herein that the classis will proceede to examination of the elders for the place elected.

6.—Evann Clarke, by a generall consent of the classis, is appointed *pro tempore* for theire register, and Mr. Hollinworth intreated to overlooke and to have an eye upon him.

7.—It is ordered that the controversie between Samuel Tayler and his brother Nathaniel Tayler shall bee heard and determined the next classis.

8.—Mr. Birch, scholemaster at Prestwich, is by the elders thereof to bee appointed to appeare at the next classicall meeteinge at Manchester for baptiseinge childeren and for makeinge clandestine marriages.

Next classis the 13th day of February, $164\frac{8}{9}$.

Mr. Harrison to bee moderator.

The moderator ended with prayer.

THE 29th MEETEINGE at Manchester, Febrij 13, $164\frac{8}{9}$.

1.—Mr. Harrison, moderator, begune with prayer.

None of the elders of Flixton appeared.

2.—There appeared several other eldershipps to the number appointed for a classe.

3.—The generalitie of the people of Newton did appeare before this classe, and there did declare their willingness to have Mr. John Walker to bee there minister.

4.—Mr. John Walker appointed to preach the next classicall meeteinge at Manchester, being the 13th of March next.

5.—Mr. Dury hath beene examined in Logicke, Phisicke, Ethicke, Metaphysicke, Greeke and Hebrue.

6.—This classe have rendered thanks to Mr. Meeke for his paines in preachinge before the said classe.

7.—Forasmuch as Nathaniel Tayler hath brought in some

exceptions against his brother Samuel Tayler, and upon his appearance refused to make proofe of anie exception against him whereof wee have cognizance, therefore this classe doth cleare the said Samuel Tayler from the afforesaid exceptions, and doe order the said Nathaniel Tayler to give satisfacon to the said Samuel Tayler for the wronge hee hath done him, by acknowledgeinge his fault before this classe.

8.—Mr. Birch, scholemaster at Prestwich, is once more to bee advertised by the elders there, to appeare before this classe for baptiseinge children privately without order, and to appeare upon Tuesday, the 13th of March next.

It is ordred that the elders elected for Ouldham come in the next classe at Manchester upon Tuesday, the 13th of March next, to bee examined in point of knowledge, and that the said elders elected have notice of it publickely in the said congregation.

The next classe to bee the 13th of March.

Mr. Harrison to bee moderator.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 30th MEETEINGE at Manchester, March 13, $164\frac{8}{9}$.

1.—Mr. Harrison, moderator, begune with prayer.

Elders appointed for Ashton: Edward Heywood, Robt. Bardsley.

Elders appointed for Manchester: John Brownesword, Robt. Bradshawe.

Elders appointed for Prestwich: James Wroe, Adam Gaskell.

There appeared severall other eldershipps to the number appointed for a classe.

2.—This classe have rendered thanks to Mr. John Walker for his paines in preachinge before the said classe.

3.—Mr. Thomas Holland returned in his Thesis this 13th of March, which he had requested for a time.

4.—Agreed that the exhortation from the provintial assemblie[1] bee reade in everie congregation within this classe the next Lord's day, beinge the 18th of March inst.

5.—The busines concerneinge the elders of Ouldham is to bee respited untill Mr. Constantine bee free from his restrainte.

6.—Mr. Dury brought in his thesis and maintayned the dispute on this question *an dies dominicus est moralis.* Hee was examined accordinge to the ordinance for ordination, and gave competent satisfaccon.

7.—A warrant to bee drawne up to bringe in witnesses to testifie what they can against Mr. Birch, scholemaster at Prestwich, for private baptizeinge of children and makeinge clandestine marriages.

8.—Agreed that there bee a solemne day of humiliacon[2] to bee kept at Manchester upon the grounds and reasons in a peticon presented to us by some of the well affected in Manchester.

9.—Mr. Thomas Holland is desired to preach the next classe.

Next classe to bee upon Tuesday, the tenth day of April next.

Mr. Hollinworth to bee moderator the next classe.

[1] This exhortation had been drawn between the two meetings of the provincial assembly of November 14, 1648, and February 7, 164⅞, and was adopted at the latter meeting, and ordered to be printed. It occurs as a very scarce tract of some 16 pp. It is printed as an Appendix from a copy in the King-street Library. This paper, together with another entitled "The paper called the Argument of the People taken into Consideration," which was signed by 54 ministers of the province of Lancaster on the 6th March, 164⅞, and which may thus be the outcome of the "exhortation," will give the best idea of the difficulties which beset Presbyterianism at this time in consequence of the triumph of the army. (Hibbert-Ware, i. 27).

[2] Charles was beheaded on the 30th January, 164⅞. The impression and the expression of horror was nowhere stronger than in Lancashire and amongst the Presbyterians. This was also a time of scarcity and distress throughout the county, of which other notices will occur in the minutes for the following months, as also in Hollinworth and Newcome, etc. "Excessive dear years; we gave 16*s.* a hoop for wheat," etc. (*Autob.*, p. 22). "The spring was more backward than had been known for some years." (Carte's *Ormond*, ii. 69).

AT THE FIRST CLASSE WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF THE COUNTIE OF LANCASTER, APRIL 10, 1649.

A COPY OF A WARRANT for Mr. Birch, scholem[r] at Prestwich:

Forasmuch as Mr. Birch, schoolemaster at Prestwich, beinge not approved by this classe for the exerciseinge of anie part of the ministeriall function within these bounds hath beene heretofore admonished for baptiseinge of children, and hath contemned theire order, whose offence herein is further aggravated by his baptiseinge in private contrary to the Directorie, and hath beene proved before them by oath, and haveinge also beene divers times summoned to appeare before this classe hath refused to make due appearance, these are therefore publickelie to give notice to your congregation of Prestwich that the said Mr. Birch is prohibited by this classe to baptize anie children either publickely or privately, or to exercise any other parte of the ministeriall function; and these are further to give notice to the said Mr. Birch to appeare before this classe at there next meeteinge at Manchester, the eight day of May, or otherwise they must proceed to the further censure of him for his severall contempts and makeinge clandestine marriages whereof there are complaints made unto us.

BY THE PROVINTIALL SYNOD

Assembled at Preston, November 14th, 1648, and continueinge unto Febrij the 7°, anno supradicto.

The synod propoundinge to hear and resolve such difficult questions as the delegates should bringe in from theire severall classes for resolucon resolveth as followeth :

1.—That the discipline of the church is to bee extended in the exercise of it to all persons professeinge Christian religion within our locall bounds respectively, that are not excommunicate; and the recoverie of excommunicate persons is to bee endeavoured by all Christians, especially by the Church officers.

2.—That the ministers and ruleinge elders are to laboure accordinge to theire places, to bring all theire people to the knowledge of the Christian faith and religion.

3.—That catachiseinge by way of question and answeare is a minister's dutie.

4.—That all ministers within this province are required to hould a course of publicke catachiseinge.

5.—That the minister in everie place is to endeavoure diligently to bring in all to be catachised by him, either publickely or privately, and the Assemblies catachismes are recommended to this use.

6.—That there is not onely one way warranted or prescribed by the word of God for the eldershippes satisfieinge themselves of the sufficiencie in pointe of knowledge of persons that are members of theire congregations respectively that they may bee admitted to the Lord's Supper.

7.—That it is not lawfull for the eldershippe to tye themselves to one way as afforesaid (suppose it be examination before them) when that one attaines not the end, and another probably may doe it.

8.—The choyce of the manner of the eldershipps satisfaccon concerneinge a persons sufficiencie in pointe of knowledge for the Lord's Supper is left to the eldershippe, provided that noe minister or other person or other persons of the eldershippe take upon them to admitte of anie person to that ordinance unlesse the eldershippe bee satisfied of the said sufficiency and doe consent to the said admission.

9.—A congregationall eldershippe may try and censure one of their elders.

10.—A private member of a congregation may not refuse to bee tryed before the eldershippe upon pretence they are a partie against him.

11.—The eldershippe is to observe whether or noe the communicants come constantly to the Lords Supper.

12.—It is left to the discreation of the eldershippe to use such meanes as they shall judge expedient to discouver that constancie, provided that noe meanes bee used that hath beene found offensive.

13.—A minister and twoe elders may suffice to constitute a congregationall eldershippe.

14.—Such as preach within our bounds beinge unordayned and disclaime classical power are first to bee dealt with by conference to restraine them from beinge designed to conferre with them by the classis; if they refuse to appeare before the classis.

15.—Delinquents in the late warres not to bee received to the Lords Supper without giveinge satisfaccon to the eldershipe of theire repentance.

16.—Ministers or elders neglectinge to observe the meeteings of the severall presbiteries are first to be admonished by the presbiters which they soe neglecte.

17.—A minister removeinge out of one classis into an other shall bring testimonialls both from the congregation and classicall presbyteries from which, to the congregation and classis unto w^{ch}, hee removes before hee bee approved or admitted by them.

18.—A minister officiateinge in anie of our assemblies for anie

continuance without applyinge himselfe to the classis for approbation is to be admonished, and further proceeded against upon his persistencie.

19.—If a minister shall administer the Lord's Supper to anie congregation promiscuously, that is without severinge the ignorant and scandelouse soe farre as lyes in him, hee is, after admonition, to bee suspended.

20.—The question wheather the children of anie parents lyinge under the imputation of ignorance or scandall, yet beinge not cast out of the Church may bee denyed baptisme resolved in the negative.

21.—If anie ministers or elders that have taken up the government desert the same in not executeinge theire dutie in it, they are first to bee conferred with by the eldershippe to w^{ch} they belonge, and if they persist to bee admonisht, and if still they p'sist to be suspended, unlesse the reasons of the partie desertinge bee satisfactorie to the eldershippe.

22.—A new eleccon of elders may bee made in a place where there is an eldershippe constituted, in case that either anie of those chosen dye or depart the congregation, or lay downe theire office, or the member already chosen be incompetent to the congregation.

23.—A classis may take a viewe of and make enquirie into the carriage of the severall church officers within its lymitts, and may desire some able members of a neighboure classis to be present with and afford theire counsell to them therein.

24.—A defendent in anie cause is not to appeale from anie inferioure to a superioure presbyterie before a censure passed in the presbyterie appealed from, save that a defendent may bee heard by the superiour Presbyterie complaineinge of an unjust delay or neglect of heareinge in the inferioure.

25.—Any scandall whatsoever contayned under the rules of the ordinance of Parliament of August 29, 1648, page 41 and 42, ought to bee proceeded against unto the censure of admonition, suspention, or excommunication, as the case deserves.

26.—Anie minister or person that shall make anie marriage, without publication of the purpose of the said marriage before, accordinge to the Directorie, or shall baptize any child privately, shall bee censur'd by the classis, and the eldershippe shall bee diligent in enquireinge after, and bringeinge to censure all such offendours.

27.—When there is a congregation destitute of a ministrie, or of an eldershippe, by reason whereof the Lord's Supper is not constantly administered, any member thereof may repaire to the eldershippe of anie neighboureinge congregation and approveinge himselfe to the said eldershippe, may bee admitted to communicate in theire congregation.

28.—A scandalouse fault comitted above a yeare since, and still remaineinge publickly scandalous in any person, is to come within the compasse of the eldershipp's cognizance.

29.—One ordain'd minister by a bishoppe since the abolition of Episcopacie by the Parliam^{tt} may not bee admitted as a minister to a place without satisfaccon given for his acceptinge of the said ordination.

30.—None are to bee approved by anie classis to a place of officiatinge in preachinge that refuse to bee ordaynd accordinge to the presbyteriall way, or renounce theire former ordination, or are ordaynd by non officers.

31.—An account to bee required of and given by the delagats unto this synode of the state of the severall classes, how manie congregationall eldershipps are in each classis, how theire classical meeteings are observed, both for tyme and number, and the several classes are required to take an account of, at the congregationall eldershipps in theire lymitts, how theire meetings are observed, whether the congregations have the Lord's [Supper] constantly, and how the government is put in execution, and whether the monethly faste bee constantly observed.

32.—Ordinary omission of duties of religion, as prayer and such like, joyntly to bee performed by the familie is scandalouse in the governors thereof.

33.—The eldershipps are to take notice of scandalouse gamsters.

34.—A voluntary entertaineinge of Papists as servants or tablers [*i.e.*, boarders] is scandalous in an householder.

35.—The ruleinge elders in a congregation may acte in a classis without a minister of the same congregation.

36.—A minister comeinge to a classis for approbation beinge of evill report is not to bee approved of by them untill hee bee cleared thereof before them.

37.—If a minister give way to one to preach in his place that hath beene to his knowledge denyed approbation by that classis, hee shall bee the first tyme admonished there[of] by the classis.

38.—If a person sent for to give testimonie to a cause dependinge before an eldershippe and appeareinge refuseth to take oath, or make answeare to the examination, hee is to bee admonished by them, and, persisting, to bee further censured.

39.—Sittinge and drinkeinge unnecessarily in an alehouse or taverne on the Lord's day shall bee censurable.

40.—An exhortacon to the severall churches in this province made and published by this synod is ordered to be published in everie eldershippe and congregation in this province.

41.—If any difference bee in a congregation about ticketts given to communicants; if the eldershippe cannot end it, they are to have recourse to the classis, and, if they determine it not, to the provintiall assemblie.

42.—A comitee is appointed to consult and resolve such difficulties as may occurre and concerne our publicke acteinge in our offices, w^{ch} shall meete the 20th of Feby, and this comittee shall at their partinge appointe a new meeteinge, for w^{ch} each classis shall appointe a minister and an elder, and after this manner continue meeteings from tyme to tyme while there shall bee occasion.

43.—This synode, concludeinge, appointeth the next provintiall assemblie to bee the next Tuesday in May next, at Preston Church, and the second classe is to appointe who shall preach at the openinge thereof.

EDWARD GEE, Scribe.

The 31th MEETINGE at Manchester, Aprill 10th, 1649.

1.—Mr. Harrison, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meetinge appeared:

Manchester: Mr. Warden, Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Walker, ministers; Mr. Thomas Smith, Robert Bradshawe, elders.

For Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Jno. Harrison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Robt. Leach, elders.

For Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Mr. Robt. Hyde, Mr. Wm. Booth, elders.

For Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, Jno. Travis, elders.

For Eccles: no minister appeared; Jno. Rogers, Thomas Warburton, elders.

3.—Thanks to bee rendred to Mr. Thomas Holland for his paines in preachinge before the classe.

4.—The sermon heereafter for the classe is to begine at Tenn aclocke and to continue untill eleven, and notice thereof to bee given to the minister that is to preach to observe the order.

5.—George Peake of Carrington, in Cheshire, aged about 54 yeares, deposed, saith that his daughter Elizabeth was married to Richard Smith of Flixton, about September, 1648, without his consent, and that shee tould him shee was married in the night tyme by Mr. Birch, scholemaster at Prestwich.

6.—Sarah Tayler, daughter of John Tayler of Heaton, aged about 29 yeares, deposed, saith that shee was present when Mr. Birch, scholmaster at Prestwich, baptized a child of Edwarde Seddons in Mr. Birches owne house in Prestwich about January, 1648.

7.—Marie Johnson, daughter of Richard Johnson of Prestwich, aged 19 yeares, deposed, saith that shee was present when Mr. Birch, schoolemaster at Prestwich, baptized a child of Edward

Seddons in Mr. Birch owne house in Prestwich about January, 1648.

8.—Mr. Warden and Mr. Angier to speake to the elders electe for Salford to move them to stand to theire election.

9.—Mr. Dury his ordination defered, to bee concluded the next classe.

10.—Mr. Walton desired to preach the next classe.

11.—The next classe to bee the second Tuesday in May.

12.—Delegates for the provinciall meeteinge at Preston the first of May next.

Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Holland } ministers.

Mr. Hyde, Mr. Sergeant, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Smith, Samuell Tayler, Robert Leech } elders.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 32th MEETEINGE at Manchester, May 8th, 1649.

1.—Mr. Constantine, moderator, begune with prayer.

Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Warden, Mr. Wm. Walker, ministers; Mr. Briddocke, Mr. Brownesword, elders.

For Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Capt. Sandiford, Ottiwell Andrew, elders.

For Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Mr. Hyde, Mr. William Booth, elders.

For Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

For Ringley: Mr. Thomas Holland, minister; Peter Seddon, senior, John Walworke, elders.

For Eccles: noe minister; Thomas Fyldes, Wm. Smith, elders.
For Prestwich: noe minister; James Wroe, James Smethurst, elders.

2.—Mr. Dury returned his *si quis*, or Instrument, with a certificate subscribed by severall of the inhabitants of Gorton, testiefieinge that the instrument hath beene published in the Church of Gorton, and afterwards affixt on the Church doore accordinge to order, and nothinge at all objected against his proceedeinge to ordination.

3.—Whereas the churchwardens of the parish of Prestwich, did in the name of manie of the parishioners afforesaid expresse theire willingnes to have Mr. Isaac Allen for theire pastor; and whereas an other partie of the said inhabitants of Prestwich appeared against the said Mr. Isaac Allen for his non-officiateinge at Prestwich aforesaid: It is ordred that those that doe appeare in the behalfe of Mr. Allen, they give in theire names in writeinge the next classe at Manchester; and alsoe ordred that nothing bee done against Mr. Allen untill such tyme as the parties appeareinge for him come in to make out what they can on theire behalfe.

4.—Mr. Birch, scholem^{r} at Prestwich, haveinge beene formerly admonished for makeinge clandestine marriages, and private baptizeninge of children, and hath, notwithstandinge, since his admonicon offended herein contrarie to the Directorie, it is ordred that the said Mr. Birch bee from henceforth inhibited from the exercise of all ministeriall offices within bounds of this classe of Manchester. And it is ordred that this inhibicon be published in the congregacon of Prestwich.

5.—Mr. Dury, his ordinacon is further deferred to the next classe to bee determined.

6.—Warrants to bee sent to Mr. Jones, Mr. Woolmer, Mr. Benson, & Mr. Clayton, to shew cause wherefore they doe not frequent classicall meeteings as formerly.

7.—Mr. Walton preached this classe.

8.—Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in June next.

9.—A new summon to bee sent to the elders of Ouldham to come in the next classe.

10.—Mr. Wm. Walker moderator the next classe.

11.—Mr. Constantine to preach the next classe.

12.—The moderator ended with prayer.

The 33th MEETEINGE at Manchester, June 12th, 1649.

1.—Mr. Wm. Walker, moderator, begune with prayer.

Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge appeared:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Wm. Walker, ministers; Thomas Smith, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

For Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Mr. Robert Hyde, Mr. Wm. Booth, elders.

For Didsbury: Mr. Clayton, minister.

For Prestwich: noe minister.

For Chorlton: Mr. Benson, minister.

For Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Robt. Leeze, Hughe Tayler, elders.

For Blakeley: no minister; Samuel Tayler, Jno. Travis, elders.

For Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister.

For Eccles: noe minister; Jno. Cliveley, Richard Edge, elders.

2.—A letter of excuse sent from Mr. Jones, and it was accepted.

3.—Mr. Benson & Mr. Clayton appeared; theire excuse was accepted, and they promised to attend the classe for after tymes.

4.—It is desired that the elders of Eccles deliver a warrant to Mr. Woolmer, and they are to give an account of the deliverie of it unto this classe at theire next meeteinge.

5.—A letter from Mr. Egerton was brought in excuseinge Mr. Woolmers absence from the classe wch was accepted for this tyme, but Mr. Woolmer, notwithstandinge, is to bee summoned to appeare the next classe.

6.—A letter to bee sent unto certaine of the inhabitants of the parish of Rostorne which formerly appeared against Mr. Adam Martindale.

7.—Mr. Constantine preached before the classe this meetinge accordinge to order.

8.—John Tayler & John Hilton doe undertake to bringe in sufficient witnesses to make good the exceptions whereupon theire peticon for a new eleccon of elders at Ouldham was grounded, [at] the next classe at Manchester, the second Tuesday in July next.

9.—Whereas the parishioners of Prestwich have presented a peticon to this classe expresseinge theire desire to have Mr. Isaac Allen for theire pastor, this classe returnes them this answeare—That untill Mr. Allen give satisfaccon concerneinge his takeinge the nationall covenant, and doe either cleare himselfe to bee free from malignancie, or give such satisfaccon in that point as they shall thinke meete for the removeall of the scandall he lyes under in that respecte, and shall alsoe testifie his readines to concurre in the present church goverment, they cannot give way to the approveall of him as the pastor of the Church at Prestwich.

10.—Mr. Dury, his ordination is to bee at Gorton Chappell, upon Wednesday, the 27th of June instant: Mr. Harrison to preach, Mr. Angier to give the exhortacon, Mr. Hollinworth & Mr. Walker to pray.

11.—A day of thanksgiveinge to bee on Thursday, the 21st of June instant, for the supply of corne, the seasonableness of the weather, the safe and free returne of our ministers, the late seasonable victorie God hath given our brethren in Scotland against the malignants there, and for preserveinge these parts from the infeccon and preventinge the rageinge of it in the places where it is.[1]

[1] See note, p. 100. The previously distressed state of the county is illustrated by the resolution of the provincial assembly of May, of this year (see minute 7 of that meeting immediately below). In "a true representation of the present sad and lamentable

12.—A letter delivred to this classe expresseinge the desires of sundry of the inhabitants of the parish of Rostorne to have Mr. Adam Martindale for there vicarr.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in July next.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator the next classe.

Mr. Wm. Walker to preach the next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

state of the county of Lancaster" (*Civil War Tracts*, p. 277), and dated 24 May, 1649, it is stated that the price of grain had been sixfold that it had previously been.

The victory in Scotland was that of Balvenie, 2nd May, 1649, won by Colonels Ker, Hacket, and Strachan (afterwards more celebrated as the leaders of the Remonstrants of the West), over the Pluscardie conspiracy (Lord Gorden, son to the lately executed Marquis of Huntley, Lord Ogilby, etc). See Balfour, vol. iii. pp. 401, 406.

BY THE PROVINCIALL ASSEMBLIE,

At Preston, May 1, 1649.

1.—Resolved upon the question that intimacon bee given to every classis that this question is to bee discussed the next session of the provinciall assembly, viz., whether the children of the grossely ignorant and scandelous parents soe knowne to bee, as alsoe of papists and excommunicates, as alsoe bastard children are to bee baptized.

2.—This assemblie upon consideration of the account given in by the delegates of the classes concerneinge the condicon of theire respective classes accordinge to a former order given out by this assemblie, solemnly admonisheth the severall classes within this province that each of them within theire respective bounds, put on, & execute with all vigor & diligence the discipline of the Church, & for that end that they use all meanes within the uttermost extent of theire power to procure the setlinge of congregationall elderships and theire acteinge in every congregacon & the due observation of theire classicall meeteings by the members thereof, both ministers & ruleing elders, and every one of them, & that what obstruccons they meete with & cannot possibly remove, they make knowne by theire delegates to this assembly upon theire first opportunity.

3.—Resolved upon the question that the meeteinge of anie number of a congregacon on a weekeday whereof there hath not beene publicke notice given before to the congregacon, is not a sufficient assemblie wherein the sacram^{tt} of baptisme may regularly bee administred.

4.—Resolved upon the queston that everie classis and other judicatory is admonisht to bee careful in proceedeinge without

delay after suspension of a delinquent, & upon his persistence to excomunicacon.

5.—Resolved upon the question that where there is a liberty for the church publickly to convene, private communions are not to bee allowed or practised.

6.—These persons delegated to bee members of this assemblie beinge absent, & haveinge not sent a sufficient excuse for theire absence, are admonisht of theire said default, & this admonicon is to bee delivrd to them by theire respective classes at theire next meetinge: of the first classis Robert Hyde, Esquire, & Peter Sergeant, Gent.

7.—In consideracon of the heavie judgm^{tt} of God lyeinge upon this county by famine, and alsoe by pestilence in some parts thereof, & in regard of other troubles and dangers upon us, it is judged necessary, and accordingly ordered, that a publicke fast bee observed in every congregation within this province, with solemne & earnest seekeinge unto God for the aversion of the said judgments and evills, and this to bee on the 4th Tuesday in this instant moneth of May.

8.—This synodd concludeth with adjornem^{tt} appointeinge the next meeteinge to bee on the third Tuesday in September next in this place, and the second classis is to designe one to preach before the assembly that day.

Mr. Harrison of Ashton is to have notice that hee is one appointed to conferre with Mr. Clayton of Blackborne about the queston which the said Mr. Clayton makes of the unwarrantablenes of Ruleinge elders, at Bolton the first Tuesday in July.

The 34 MEETEINGE at Manchester, July 10th 1649.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begunne with prayer.

Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

For Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Mr. Brownesword, Mr. Smith, Robert Bradshawe, elders.

For Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Mr. Robt. Hyde, William Booth, elders.

For Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Lawrence Wright, John Thorpe, elders.

For Prestwich: noe minister; Peter Sergeant, James Wroe, elders.

For Chorlton: Mr. Benson, minister.

For Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister.

For Flixton: Mr. Woolmer, minister.

For Eccles: no minister; William Smith, Thomas Edge, elders.

For Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Pendleton, John Rawson, elders.

For Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister.

2.—Mr. William Walker preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Agreed that all the elders elected for Flixton bee at Manchester the next classe, wch will bee the second Tuesday in August next.

4.—John Hilton, one of them that did undertake to bringe in witnesses to make null the eleccon of elders at Ouldham, appeared and brought noe witnesses, whereupon the classe orders that the elders elected for Ouldham come in the [next] classe to bee examined.

5.—Twoe letters beinge this day received by this classe from some gentlemen in Cheshire, one from the Baron of Kinderton,[1]

[1] See the account of the paper of exceptions in Martindale's *Autob.*, p. 82–3,

and an other from the some other gentlemen of the parish of Rostorne, whereby it appeared that there would bee some demurre made to Mr. Martindales ordinacon, and Mr. Martindale not beinge willinge to stay soe longe a tyme of delay as hee apprehended would therby bee occasioned to his settlement, did declare himselfe unwillinge to proceed any further in this classe touchinge his ordination.

6.—Agreed that Mr. Angier & Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Peter Sergeant and Mr. Smith, bee desired by this classe to meete the delegates of the classe at Bury, for the setlinge of the chappelrie of Ringley and the goverm^{tt} there, and that a letter bee written by the moderator to the said classe of Bury to that end.[1]

7.—It is agreed, upon request of the inhabitants of Prestwich, that there be publicke fast kept at Prestwich the last Wednesday of July instant, Mr. Hollinworth to preach, Mr. Angier & Mr. Walker to pray, and afterwardes to conferre withe the parishioners as was desired. The churchwardens were call'd in and desired to acquaint Mr. Allen of our willingnes to conferre with him.

8.—It is ordered that a publicke course of catachiseinge bee set on foote in every congregation by every minister in this

where also the editor has a note on the Baron of Kinderton. (Peter Venables, Esq., 1604-1669.) The Baron was by right the patron of the Rostherne living, but suspended "at present" from his right of presentation. (See C. J. under date 13 June, 1648.)

[1] This matter is explained by the Bury minutes :—

July 12, 1649. "Some ministers and elders met at Bury and read a question from the first classe that some of this classe might meet the delegates of the first classe att Ringley to consult how some obstructions in the government there might be removed.

Ordered that Mr. Tilsley, Mr. Scholefielde, ministers, and Mr. Holt and Hen. Seddon, elders, doe meet at Ringley on the first Thursday in August."

Aug. 9, 1649. "Mr. Tilsley reporteth the result of the meeting at Ringley Chapel, which was that Mr. Holland, minister at Ringley, should call together the people belonging to Ringley congregation, and that such as come out of the parish of Deane that desire to joyne at Ringley shall shew their dismission from the eldership there." Further notice of this will occur. Ringley Chapel was a member of the first classis, whereas Deane parish was a member of the second. So that the dispute was as to the classical boundary, as well as obstructions in the government.

classe, and the Assemblies catachisms to bee used, and that the ministers & elders of every congregation use there endeavoure to bringe all the members of their respective congregationes to the knowledge of the christiane faith by any way, whereby they can bringe it best about as they can agree amongst themselves.[1]

[1] This order was the result of the recent resolutions and exhortations of the Provincial Synod of the county. The work of catechising had been recommended to the ministers by the Provincial Assembly held at Preston in November of the preceding year, 1648. (See resolutions 2-6 p. 102.) In the "Solemn Exhortation" published by the Synod at Preston, February 7th, 164$\frac{8}{9}$, the ministers are exhorted "to labour to instruct by way of catechising all the young and weak in knowledge" within their flocks, and "all Christians" are particularly exhorted to submit to be catechized by the minister and tried and approved by the eldership. (See Appendix.)

The matter had been approached by the London Provincial Synod at almost an identical moment, and in a similar, but more explicit, manner. The actual result of the appeal in Lancashire will be gathered from a perusal of these minutes. In the case of London the result was still more disappointing. The matter of catechising is not even noticed in the minutes of the fourth classis, and the result was practically the same when, seven years later, both "provinces" again took the matter into consideration. (See *postea.*)

The particular regulations prescribed by the London Provincial Synod are preserved in the records of the fourth classis as follow:

"The Provintiall Assembly of London (November 23, 1648), taking into their serious consideration how singularly usefull a diligent course of catechisme in all publique assemblies within the province will be for the promoting of sound knowledge in the fundamentals of Christian religion, and of the power of godlines against all manner of errors in opinion and prophanenesse in conversation, have thought it necessarie most earnestly to recommend this pious and profitable exercise to all the severall classes within this province, that they in theire zeale to Gods glorie and the churches edification may take such course that it bee speedily and effectually put in execution within all their respective congregations.

And for the more orderly and uniform carrying on of this excellent and needfull worke, it is desired that these following directions bee observed:

I.—That y^{e} severall ministers on some Lords day when they give publique notice of their purpose to sett upon catechising doe in their sermon effectually demonstrate the great necessitie and utilitie thereof, earnestly exhorting all parents and masters of families to prepare their children & servants by catechising them at home, that they may more readily and cheerfully give account in publick.

II.—That the catechisme to bee made use of through this whole Province bee the lesser Catechisme drawne upp and presented by the Reverend Assembly of Divines to the Honourable Houses of Parliament, and published by their authoritie, to bee used

9.—It is agreed that every notoriouse scandalouse person within there severall congregations, tho they do not offer themselves to come to the sacrament, shalbee dealt withall by there severall eldershipps with the censures of admonition and suspention in order to excommunication upon their contempte.

10.—Mr. Benson to preach the next classe; otherwayse upon notice Master Hollinworth to preach.

Mr. Walton moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in August next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 35 MEETEINGE at Manchester, August 14th, 1649.

1.—Mr. Walker, moderator, begune with prayer.

Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

For Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Walker, ministers; Raphe Briddocke, Thomas Smith, elders.

For Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esq., Robt. Leech, elders.

For Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, Adam Garside, elders.

throughout the Kingdome of England and dominion of Wales, this catechisme herein excelling all others, that every answer is a perfect proposition without the question.

III.—That the persons to bee catechised bee children and servants that have not bin admitted to the Lords table by the eldership.

IV.—That the time of catechising bee on the Lords day in the afternoone, before the sermon, to the end that the whole congregation may receive benefit therein.

V.—That the catechisme be briefly explained at the first going over it, that so the people may in a short time have a taste of the whole body of Divinitie.

VI.—That parishioners bee desired, at the common charge of the parish, to provide catechismes for the poorer sort who cannot well provide them for themselfs, and that the distribution of them bee referred to the respective ministers."

For Blakely: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

For Eccles: No minister; John Clieveley, Thomas Fyldes, elders.

For Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., William Booth, elders.

For Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister.

For Ouldham: Mr. Const[ant]ine, minister.

2.—The elders elected for Salford are to have notice that they are to come in the next classe unto examination.

3.—The elders elected for Ouldham are Mr. Henry Wrigley,[1] Edward Sandiford, Samuel Scofield, John Smith, John Worrall, John Leeze, Alexander Lomax, James Leeze, Francis Clegge, Joseph Hallowes, John Travis, & John Scoles; examined and approved of.

4.—Agreed that Mr. Hollinworth & Mr. Angier are to goe to Prestwich to advise with the parishioners there concerneinge the setleinge of a minister amongst them.

5.—Agreed that a publicke day of humiliation bee kept at Manchester upon Wednesday next, the 22nd of August instant, in regard that the hand of God is thus fully gone out against us in a violent fever and the small poxe. Mr. Warden & Mr. Angier to preach; Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Walton, & Mr. Holland to pray.

6.—Members delegated for the Provinciall Assemblie from the first classe: Mr. Harrison, Mr. Angier, & Mr. Meeke, ministers; Peter Sergeant, Mr. Hyde, Edward Sandiford, Mr. Wrigley, Thomas Rogers, Richard Edge, elders.

[1] Henry Wrigley, the draper, clothworker, banker, and High Constable of Salford, had resided at Chamber Hall in Oldham from 1646. See Mr. Bailey's account of him (*Pal. Note Book*, iv. 102). He was Sheriff of Lancashire in 1651, and died 22nd July, 1658.

In Appendix I. will be found some correspondence of his which does not throw a favourable light on his character. For Edward Sandford, *vide* Baines, ii. 338. All the other Oldham elders, except Alex. Lomax, appear among the Oldham protestors in 1641.

7.—Wee, the classe at Manchester, upon the desire of severall of the members of the congregation at Ellingbrooke, doe give our approbation to Mr. George Tomson to the end hee may receive the benefite and encouragement of the sequestration.[1]

Mr. Hollinworth preached before the classe accordinge to order.

Mr. Benson to preach the next classe.

The next classe to bee the second Tuesday in September next.

Mr. Heyrick moderator the next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 36 MEETEINGE at Manchester, September 11th, 1649.

1.—Mr. Warden, moderator, begune with prayer.

Members of severall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

For Manchester: Mr. Warden, Mr. Walker, ministers; Mr. John Brownesword, Mr. Smith, Robt. Bradshawe, Rowland Wright, elders.

For Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, John Gee, elders.

For Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister.

For Chorlton: Mr. Benson, minister.

[1] C. J., iii. 270. "Die Lunæ, 9 Octobris, 1643.—To the end that the maintenance provided or disposed by the Parliament for preaching ministers within the county of Lancaster may only be given unto godly and learned or orthodox divines, this House doth order that no minister within the said county shall hereafter have benefit by any sequestration, pension, or other portion settled or to be settled upon any church of chapel within the said county until every such minister do shew a certificate unto two or more deputy-lieutenants in the said county, to be approved by them, of his abilities and fitness for the ministry under the hands of Mr. Herle of Winwicke (and 15 others)." On the erection of the Presbyterian system, this responsibility would be transferred to the classes, but, if so, the exact reference has escaped me. On the working of these sequestrations see below.

For Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, Adam Gaskell, elders.

For Eccles: No minister; Thomas Warburton, Thomas Rogers, elders.

For Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Robt. Bardsley, elders.

For Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Rawson, elders.

For Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Edward Sandiford, John Scofield, elders.

2.—Mr. Benson preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Elders elected for Denton are Robt. Turner, Peter Ashton, Robt. Collier, Robert Johnson, Robert Stansfield, junior; examined and approved.

4.—A day of publicke humiliacon to bee kept at Manchester upon Wednesday, the 26th of September instant, to begge mercy of God in preserveinge the peace and integritie of the Churches in this province, especially of Manchester and the neighboureinge congregations. Mr. Tildesley, Mr. Gee, to bee desired to preach; Mr. Angier, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Constantyne to pray.

5.—Elders elected for Salford are Mr. Phillip Stampe, William Heckenbothome;[1] examined and approved for knowledge.

6.—Next classe to be the second Tuesday in October next.

7.—Mr. Benson is to give notice to the minister at Stretford that hee may appeare before the next classe at Manchester, w^ch^ will be the second Tuesday in October next.

8.—Mr. Constantyne is to give notice to the minister at Shawe Chappell that hee likewise appeare before the next classe at Manchester the second Tuesday in October next.[2]

9.—George Grimshawe is to appeare before the next classe at Manchester.

[1] For Philip Stampe see *supra*, p. 42, note. For W. Higginbothom see *Palatine Note Book*, vol. i. p. 138; vol. iv. p. 101. *Manchester Court Leet Records*, vol. iii. pp. 279, 316. (Wills at Chester, Record Society) Higginbothom Wm. of Salford, 1674.

[2] See Robert Symonds—Appendix.

Mr. Holland moderator the next classe.

Mr. Clayton appointed to preach the next classe. Mr. Benson to give him notice thereof.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 37 MEETEINGE at Manchester, October 9th, 1649.

1.—Mr. Thomas Holland, moderator, begunne with prayer.

Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

For Manchester: Mr. Walker, minister; Mr. Johnson, Mr. Meare, Mr. John Brownsword, Mr. Tho. Diconson, elders.

For Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Capt. Sandiford, elders.

For Eccles: No minister; Thomas Edge, Thomas Fylds, elders.

For Prestwich: No minister; John Scoles, Adam Gaskell, elders.

For Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., & William Booth, elders.

For Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Saml Tayler, Saml Pendleton, elders.

For Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; John Smith, John Worrall, elders.

2.—Mr. Clayton preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—A summons to bee drawne up to require George Grimshawe to appeare before the next classe at Manchester the second Tuesday in November next.

4.—The minister at Shawe Chappell hath sent his letter of excuse for his non-appearance before the classe at Manchester, the 9th of October, 1649.

5.—Mr. Constantine is desired to give further notice unto the

minister at Shawe Chappell to attend the classe at Manchester the second Tuesday in November next.

6.—Mr. Edmund Jones brought in a testimoniall of his takeinge the Nationall Covenn^tt^, as alsoe a certificate that hee hath proceeded Batcheloure in Arts in the University of Cambridge; hee hath alsoe brought a certificate that hee is aged five and twentie yeares. Hee hath been examined in Hebrew, Greeke, and in Latine, phisicks, ethics, and metaphisicks, and is approved.[1]

[1] Several of these certificates have been preserved in the London classis book, which is now in Dr. Williams' Library, London. Those relating to the taking of the Covenant do not vary much in form:

"These may certifie the reverend classis, or whom else it may concerne, that John Tompson of Milford, in the connty of Northumberland, did freely and *ex animo* take the Nationall Covenant, it being tendred him by me.

ROGER MANNERS, Minister,
of Helmsley, in Yorkshire."

The certificates with regard to age are very various in form and contents, and occasionally amusing:

"Gentlemen,—The experience I have had of this bearer, Mr. Joseph Crab, assures me that he is both pious and orthodox, and I verily believe him to bee above twenty five yeers of age.

WILLIAM WALLER."

There is not more than one instance of the exact age being given from the register. The certificates as to degree are generally signed by ministers, and are mostly in the following form:

"Certificate of his degree in the universitie: Good conversation, and abilities for learning.

Wee, whose names are subscribed, ministers of the Church of England, doe hereby certify that John Bold, graduate in the Universitie of Cambridge, is a man of unblameable conversation, etc, etc.

(Signed by seven Ministers.)"

There is one interesting instance of such a certificate being given under the seal of the College:

"Nos Thomas Bainbrigg, in Sacra Theologia doctor, magister sive custos Collegii Christi in Academia Cantabrigiensi et ejusdem socii, Johannem Tompson nostri collegii scholarem omnibus ad quorum manibus hae literæ pervenerint commendatum volumus, quem dum apud nos commoratus in bonis literis operam narasse tum modeste se gessisse testamur et pactis exercitiis ad id requisitis eruditionis et probitatis nomine publice approbatum, admissum fuisse ad respondendam quaestionem anno Domini, 1644. In cujus rei testimonium, hasce literas damus quas singulorum nominibus subscriptis et collegii sigello, quem similibus utimur, apposito confirmamus.

Data e Collegio Christi,
15 Calen: April, 1644.

THO. BAINBRIGG
(and seven of the fellows."

7.—Mr. Edmund Jones is appointed to mantayne a question on this thesis—*an mere privati possint legitime concionari. Negative.*

8.—Mr. Edmund Jones is to returne this thesis the next classe.

9.—Mr. Jones is to bring in a testimoniall the next classe of his lawfull call to officiate at Eccles.

10.—Mr. Walker, minister at Newton, is to come in the next classe to examination, a preparative to ordination.

11.—Mr. Woolmer is to have notice to appeare before the next classe at Manchester.

12.—Mr. Benson is desired to give notice to the minister of Stretford to appeare before the next classe at Manchester the second Tuesday in November next.

Mr. Harrison moderator next classe.

Mr. Edmund Jones is appointed to preach the next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The next classe the second Tuesday in November next.

BY THE PROVINCIALL ASSEMBLIE,

At Preston, the 18th & 19th of September, 1649.

1.—Whereas the several churches in this province, in consideration of the heavie displeasure of God lately manifested in his sore judgments of dearth and famine lyinge upon this countie, and alsoe of pestelence in some parts thereof, did keepe (by order of the provinciall assemblie) in May last a day of publicke humiliation and prayer for the turneinge away of the said wrath and judgments; and forasmuch as they have beene in that theire seekeinge to Almightie God (though unworthie in themselves) through his infinit compassion and grace soe fully and remarkably answeared, particularly in the most unexpected supply of corne from forraigne parts in the time of our greatest want, and the present plentifull and seasonable harvest, as alsoe in the mitigation of his hand in the pestilence where it was begunne, and prevention of it from spreadinge to other parts: The Assemblie apprehendeth it theire bounden duty to put in mind the people of this countie hereof, and of theire duty to returne hartie praise, with the fruite of amendmtt of life, unto the God of our mercies for the same; and for the more suitable performance of the service of praise, they thinke it meete to set aparte a day unto publicke and solemne thanksgiveinge for all the late eminent mercies of God, and in spetiall for the aforementioned; to bee observed in the severall congregacons throughout this countie the 3rd Thursday in October next; and of this the delegates in this assemblie are to give tymely notice to theire respective classes and their brn of the ministrie therein, who are to publish this order the next Lords day before the affore appointed day.

2.—Resolved upon the question that a child borne of papiste parents presented to baptisme by a person or persons of the protestant faith among us, the said parents undertakeinge the education of the child in the said faith, and the parents, or those who are otherwise intressted in the childs bringeinge up, consentinge to the said undertakers soe educateinge the child, may bee baptized in our churches.

3.—These persons beinge delegated to bee members of this assemblie, and being absent, or not continueinge during the session, are admonisht of theire default, and the admonition is to bee delivered them by there respective classes at theire next meeteinge.

None of the First Classis.

4.—The assemblie earnestly exhorteth the members of the severall congregationall and classicall Presbyteries to renewe theire endeavours in their disciplinary dutyes within theire respective charges, & to attend constantly theire classicall, congregationall, and provinciall meeteings, and to suffer noe discouragements from anie disaffected partie to weaken theire hands in that worke. The elders of the third classis are more particulerly exhorted herein.

5.—This assemblie concludeth with adjornementt appointinge the next meeteinge to bee the first Tuesday in June next in this place, and the third classis is to appoint one to preach before the assemblie that day.

It is desired the delegates sent to this assemblie will observe the houre of tenn of the clocke in the morneinge on the day above sett, to appeare at the Church, the sermon beinge then to begine.

EDWARD GEE, Scribe.

The 38th MEETEINGE at Manchester, November the 13th, 1649.

Mr. Harrison, moderator, begune with prayer.

1.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge

For Manchester: Mr. Walker, minister; Jno Brownsword, Rowland Wright, elders.

For Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robert Johnson, Robert Turner, elders.

For Eccles: No minister; John Cliveley, Richard Edge, elders.

For Ashton-under-lyne: John Sandeford, Isaac Dehowe, elders.

For Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Edward Sandeford, Sam. Scofield, elders.

For Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, James Tayler, elders.

For Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipe Stampe, Wm. Heckenbothom, elders.

For Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; John Rawson, John Travis, elders.

For Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister.

For Gorton: Mr. Dury, minister.

2.—Mr. Edmund Jones preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Capt. Seddon sent his lre of excuse for his not attendinge this classe at this tyme by reason of unexpected occasions that are hapned unto him, but declares his forwardnes to imploye his service for the good of the classe.

4.—Mr. Edmund Jones brought in his pos.—*an mere privati possint legitime concionari.* His neg. def. was approved.

5.—Mr. Edmund Jones hath past his examination in divinity, & approved of with reference to ordination.

6.—Mr. Jones is to bringe in a more expresse certificate for his officiateinge at Eccles.[1]

7.—Mr. John Walker, minister at Newton, brought in a testimoniall of his proceedinge M^r^ of Artes in the Universitie of Glascoe, in Scotland.

8.—Mr. Edward Lownds, preacher at Ashburne, brought in a testimoniall of his life & conversation under the hands of divers ministers: as alsoe a testimoniall of his proceedinge M^r^ of Arts in the University of Glascoe, in Scotland.

9.—Mr. Walker is to bringe in a testimoniall of his lawfull call to officiate at Newton, and of his life & conversation, and a certificate of his age.

[1] The certificate demanded was as to the lawful calling to officiate at Eccles. In case of a presentation by a patron, the classis would demand a copy of the act under the hand and seal of the patron, and many such "titles" occur in the accounts of ordinations. One of them is given in full in the minute book of the fourth London classis:

"Know all men by these presents that I, Algernon, Earl of Northumberland . . . do . . . present unto the Rectory of the Parish Church of St. Andrew's, Hubbard, which lately became void by the death of Richard Chambers the late incumbent thereof, William Wilkins, M.A., to any person or persons having sufficient power in that behalf, desiring that the said William Wilkins may be admitted, instituted, and inducted Rector unto the said Rectory with all the rights, etc. In witness whereof, etc. (Dated 16 Nov. 1652.)"

At a time, however, when so many estates bearing right of patronage were under sequestration, there were numerous other forms of the "title" which were accepted by the ordaining bodies. In many cases the two Houses passed orders of presentation and induction. They occur with great frequency in the "Journals." In most cases these orders were made, apparently, on reports from the committees for "scandalous" and "plundered" ministers. But the latter committee occasionally acted on its own initiative, *e.g.*:

"At a committee for Plundered Ministers,
November 27, 1648.

It is ordered that Mr. John Hall be referred to the next classicall Presbiterie within the Province of London, who are desired upon due examination and triall of his gifts and abilities for the ministry and his fitnes to officiate in the chappel of Hinton, within the parish of Crawley, in the county of Southampton, to ordaine him minister thereunto if they see cause.

GILBERT MILLINGTON."

Failing these methods, the various parliamentary committees for the counties had the right to make order of presentation, and frequently did so, *e.g.*:

Somerset,

"Whereas the vicaridge of Michael-Creetch was sequestred by virtue of an ordinance of parliament, whereby the parish is altogether destitute of an able minister to supply the cure, wee, the committee

10.—Mr. Lownds is to bring in a testimoniall of his faire call to Ashburne, and a certificate of his age, the next classe at Manchester.

11.—Mr. Walker hath beene examined in Greeke, in Hebrewe, and in latine, in Phisicks, Ethics, and Metaphisicks, and is approved of.

12.—Mr. Lownds hath beene examined in Greeke, in Hebrewe, & in latine, in Phisicks, Ethics, Metaphisicks, and is approved of.

13.—Mr. Lownds is to mantayne a dispute on this question—*an detur peccatum originale inhærens.* Affir.

14.—Mr. Walker is to mantayne a dispute on this question—*an homines a deo eligantur ad salutem ob fidem prævisam.* Neg.

15.—Mr. Lownds to preach the next classe at Manchester the second Tuesday in December next.

16.—A summons drawne up to require Mr. Odcroft, the minister at Stretford, to appeare before the classe at Manchester the second Tuesday in December next.

The next classe is to bee the second Tuesday in December next.

Mr. Harrison moderator the next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

for the county, appointed by ordinance of parliament, having had the approbation of three learned able divines, have thought fitt, and doe hereby constitute and appoint Mr. Richard Smith to be minister there, and to take into his possession all the tythes, profitts, and emoluments of the vicaridge . . . . . until further order. Whereof all are to take speciall notice and to pay the said tythes, profitts, and commodities unto the said Mr. Smith as minister of the said parish.

Given under our hand, at our Committee Chamber in Bridgewater, this 17th day of December, 1646."

(Subscribed by six of the committee.)

The above form of title occurs very frequently in the classical records.

In the remaining cases, free election by the parish was sufficient to constitute a "lawful call." Sometimes the fact of such an election was notified to the House of Commons, together with a petition praying for an order thereupon. But in many other instances the parish proceeded quite independently to invite and institute its elected minister. Of this last form Newcome's was a well known instance.

In the case under consideration (that of Eccles), the rector was John Jones, the father of the candidate Edmund.

It appears likely that he was resigning because of age and illness. The living was in the gift of the Crown. The classis may therefore have demanded that under the circumstances the consent of the parishioners should be clearly expressed. In the subsequent meetings Eccles is represented by the younger Jones.

The 39th MEETEINGE at Manchester, December 11th, 1649.

Mr. Harrison, moderator, begune with prayer.

Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

For Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Walker, ministers; Mr. Dickonson, Mr. Smith, Robert Bradshawe, elders.

For Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; John Gee, Peter Ashton, elders.

For Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Mr. Ashton, Robt. Leach, elders.

For Eccles: Noe minister; Thomas Warburton, Thomas Rogers, elders.

For Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; Alexander Lomax, Francis Clegge, elders.

For Prestwich: Noe minister; Peter Sergeant, James Wroe, elders.

For Salford: Minister.

For Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Rowson, elders.

For Gorton: Mr. Dury, minister.

Mr. John Walker brought in a testimoniall of his faire call to officiate at Newton; as alsoe a certificate of his age.

Mr. Lownds brought in a testimoniall of his faire call to Ashburne.

George Grimshawe declared himselfe willinge to give publicke satisfaccon to the congregation for the commission of the great sine of incest before the next classicall meeteinge at Manchester, and the congregacon is to have notice of it the Sabboath day before hee manifest his confession.[1]

[1] See below, Meeting of February 13th, 165⅘. For George Grimshawe see *Manchester Court Leet Records*, vol. iv. p. 330 (Earwaker's note), and vols. iii–vi *passim*. His case had probably been before the parochial presbytery before being referred to the classis.

Mr. Walker mantayned a dispute on this question—*an homines a deo eliguntur ad salutem ob fidem prævisam.* His negative def. approved.

Mr. Lownds preached before the classe accordinge to order.

Mr. Lownds mantayned a dispute on this question—*an detur peccatum originale inhærens.* His affir. def. approved.

Mr. Lownds hath beene examined in divinitie, cronologie, and ecclesiasticall histories, and approved of.

Mr. Walker hath beene examined in divinitie, cronologie, and ecclesiasticall histories, and approved of.

Mr. Jones returned his Instrum^{tt} unto the classe.

Mr. Jones to bee ordayned at Eccles upon the last Wednesday in December instant; Mr. Angier to preach, Mr. Walker, Mr. Walton to pray, and Mr. Walker to give the exhortacon besides.

Elders elected for Gorton: Mr. Strangwayes,[1] senior, Wm. Bertinsheade, Robt. Hulme, Alexander Hearon, examined & approved.

A day of humiliacon to bee at Manchester upon Wednesday, the 19th of December instant, Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Angier to preach, Mr. Meeke, Mr. Constantyne to pray; in referance to the tryalls and temptacons that are lykely to bee put both upon magistrats, ministers, and people.[2]

Mr. Walker and Mr. Lownds to bee ordaynd at Newton upon Wednesday, the 9th January next; Mr. Constantine to pray first, Mr. Harrison to preach; Mr. Hollinworth to give the exhortacon, Mr. Angier, Mr. Walton to pray at the imposicon of hands, Mr. Walker to conclude with prayer.

[1] Thomas Strangewayes, Esq., who succeeded to the Strangewayes Hall estate some time before April, 1613. (*Manchester Court Leet Records*, ii. 167-279.) The Hall was subsequently purchased by John Hartley (q.v.). His will does not appear either at Chester or London. He was living in June 1651 (*Manchester Court Leet Records*, iv. 330), and he may be the "Mr. Strangwayes" of Newcome's *Diary*, p. 62, under date March 1, 166½. But more probably it is the son Philip. Robert Hulme appears among the protestors of Manchester, Heron and Bertinsheade among those of Gorton.

[2] See the 6th minute of the meeting of February following, and note thereon.

Mr. Tomson to preach the next classe at Manch^{r}.

Mr. Hollinworth intreated to confer with George Grimshawe.

Mr. Hollinworth intreated to confer with Mr. Odcroft, preacher at Stretford.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in January next.

Whereas Mr. Edm. Jones, aged about 25 yeares, hath addressed . . . in the Church of Eccles in the county of Lancaster . . . exercise in the Church of Eccles in the county aforesaid . . . set our hands the 25th day of January, 16$\frac{4}{5}$$\frac{8}{9}$.

Subscribed by Mr. John Jones, Vic^{r}. Mr. Holland.
Mr. Angier. Mr. Constantyne.
Mr. Hollinworth. Mr. Meeke.
Mr. Harrison. Mr. Dury.
Mr. Walton.

The 40th MEETEINGE at Manchester, January 8th, 1649.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begune with prayer.

Mr. Tomson preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:—

For Manchester: Mr. Walker, minister; Mr. Johnson, Mr. Brownesword, elders.

For Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Mr. Phillipe Stampe, elders.

For Denton: Mr. Angier, minister: Rob^{t}. Hyde, Esq., Robert Stansfield, elders.

For Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Henry Wrigley, John Leeze, elders.

For Blakley: Mr. Walton, minister; Sam. Tayler, John Travis, elders.

For Gorton: Mr. Dury, minister.

For Prestwich: Noe minister; Peter Sargeant, James Wroe, elders.

For Ashton-under-lyne: Noe minister; Robt. Lees, Lawrance Wright, elders.

For Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; Richard Edge, Thomas Edge, elders.

3.—Mr. Hollinworth is yet further desired to conferre with Mr. Odcrofte, the preacher at Stretforde.

4.—Mr. John Walker returned his Instrument or *si quis.*

5.—Mr. John Walker to preach the next classe.

6.—It is agreed that George Grimshawe give publicke satisfaccon to the congregacon the next Sabbath day in the Church of Manchester betweene neene and tenn of the clocke in the afforenoone.

7.—Mr. Meeke moderator the next classe.

The next classe to be the second Tuesday in February next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 41 MEETEINGE at Manchester, February the 12th, 16$\frac{4}{5}$.

1.—Mr. Meeke moderator begune with prayer.

Mr. John Walker preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meetinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Walker, ministers; Mr. Smith, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; William Booth, Robt. Collier, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Ottiwell Andrewe, John Thorpe, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Mr. Stampe, Mr. Heginbotham, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Rowson, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; Thomas Fylds, John Cliveley, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Dury, minister.

Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, Adam Gaskell, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Joseph Hallowes, James Lees, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thos. Beron, Peter Ashton, elders.

3.—George Grimshawe made publicke acknowledgment of his comitinge the great sinne of incest, in the Church of Manchester, upon the Saboath the 10th of February last, betwixt the houres of 9 et 10 aclocke in the forenoone, accordinge to order.

4.—A summons to bee drawne up to require Mr. John Leake [Lake], the preacher at Prestwich, to attend the next classicall meeteinge at Manchester, wch wilbee the second Tuesday in March next.

5.—An other sumons to bee drawne up to require Mr. Robt. Symonds, minister at Shawe Chappell, to attend the next classicall meeteinge at Manchester, wch will bee the second Tuesday in March next.

6.—A day of publicke fast to bee observed in every particular congregation within this classe upon the last Wednesday in this moneth, in referance to the great dangers and distraccons that lye upon us.[1]

[1] The Engagement was introduced into the Commons on the 11th October, 1649. (C. J., vi. 308.) On the following day it was made obligatory on a long list of various officials, *inter alios* upon graduates in the universities, ministers henceforth to be admitted, members of the Assembly of Divines, and ministers receiving augmentations. On the 9th November it was proposed to make the subscription general, and the Act was introduced on the 27th November. It passed its third reading on

7.—Mr. Jones, junior, to preach the next classe.

the 2nd January, 16$\frac{4}{5}$. (C. J., vi. 321, 326, 342.) The 23rd February was the term fixed for the subscription, subsequently extended to the 23rd of March.

In the present state of our knowledge it is impossible to say how many of and how far the ministers of Lancashire were affected and disturbed by refusing the Engagement. The contemporary memoirs abound with accounts of the perplexity into which they were cast. (See Adam Martindale, p. 92.) Some instances may be noticed from the State Papers. On the 2nd April, 1650, the Council of State complained to the Justices of Assize of Lancashire that "in no place have the boldness of the ministers come to that height as in your county . . . but the people know that the keeping of such correspondence with foreign enemies as is practised by some there will draw those enemies again amongst them."

On the 4th June the Council ordered certain ministers who had been arrested "at Manchester for their seditious preaching" to be sent up to London. This is explained by the entry of July 23rd, "upon considering the charge against Richard Hollinworth and William Walker, clerks, and their answer; also their petition promising to demean themselves as becomes ministers of the Church and members of the Commonwealth, piously, prudently, peaceably, and inoffensively, seeking God's glory and the public good; the Council being willing to believe well of their intentions of performance of their promises, and expecting that they will be careful for the future not to give any just cause of jealousy, discharge them from further attendance upon the charge brought against them, but they are to be further responsible as Council shall appoint, and they are to be set at liberty to return to their own county without molestation."

It is probable that a quiet behaviour would have insured freedom from molestation, even if the Engagement had not been taken; but fresh indications of their spirit led to the further pressing of subscription to it. The Council of State several times determined on a reference to Parliament, and on the 17th October a Parliamentary ordinance was made that the Council should return the names of ministers who showed their refractoriness to the Government by neglecting "the last day of thanksgiving."

October 21: "Mr. Fogg to be required to leave the garrison of Liverpool within ten days, and not return thither or repair to any other garrison within this nation until further order. Colonel Birch to put this in execution unless Fogg takes the Engagement on its being tendred to him."

November 26: "To write James Asheton of Chadderton to send for Robert Constantine, late preacher at Oldham, and examine him upon the depositions taken concerning his seditious preaching against Government, and to take his answers, and likewise to examine the parties who have deposed; Constantine to have liberty to cross-examine and to enter into recognizance of £500 to appear before the Council in ten days."

November 27: "Order in Parliament that the Council of State be required to remove out of all garrisons, cities, and market and great towns, all such ministers as

8.—Mr. Harrison moderator the next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 42 MEETEINGE at Manchester, March the 12, 16$\frac{4}{5}$.

1.—Mr. Harrison, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Mr. Jones, junior, preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Walker, minister; John Brownesword, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Capt. Ashton, Robert Leech, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; John Travis, John Scoles, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Dury, minister.

shall upon further tender refuse to acknowledge the present Government by subscribing the Engagement." (*State Papers Domestic*, 1650, pp. 78, 187, 249, 390, 395, 443.)

Heywood gives the following account of Angier in his *Life*: "He refused to enter into the Engagement, though to his prejudice, for he told a pious minister that he lost £200 by his refusal of it. He joined his brethren in that solid plea for the non-subscribers of the Engagement, for which they were threatened and endangered till God broke that snare." ("A plea for non-subscribers, or the grounds and reasons of many ministers in Cheshire, Lancashire, and the parts adjoining for their refusal of the late Engagement, 1650.")

See also minute seven of the meeting of April following: All acts relating to the taking of the engagement were cancelled by an ordinance of $\frac{12}{22}$ January, 165$\frac{4}{5}$, which is printed as an Act by Scobell, ii. 277, and which was confirmed by the Commons, April 28th, 1657. (C. J., vii. 524.)

This Act was not made retrospective except in actions at law, but it is evident from the case of Constantine at Oldham that the repeal was considered valid ground for the restoration of a minister who had been evicted for refusing the Engagement three years before.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; Thomas Rogers, Wm. Smith, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; John Wright, Thos. Barone, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Wm. Booth, elders.

Prestwich: Noe minister; Peter Sergeant, James Wroe, Adam Gaskell, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister.

4.—Mr. Leake, preacher at Prestwiche, appeared accordinge to his summons, and upon his request hath tyme given him untill the next classe to give in his answeare to the summons.

5.—Mr. Dury to preach the next classe.

6.—Another summons drawne up to require Mr. Robt. Symonds, preacher at Shawe Chappell, to attend the classis at theire next meeteinge at Manchester, w^ch^ will bee the second Tuesday in Aprill next.

Mr. Wm. Walker moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in Aprill next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 43 MEETEINGE at Manchester, Aprill the 9^th^, 1650.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begune with prayer, because Mr. Wm. Walker was not well, hee beinge chosen moderator by the precedent classe.

2.—Mr. Dury preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Pro Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Rowland Wright, Rich. Meare, elders.

Pro Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Edm. Heywood, R. Bardsley, elders.

Pro Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipe Stampe, Wm. Heginbottom, elders.

Pro Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; John Cliveley & Thos. Edge, elders.

Pro Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; no elders.

Pro Prestwich: No minister; Peter Sergeant, James Smethurst, elders.

Pro Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Wm. Booth, Robert Stansfield, elders.

Pro Ouldham: No minister; Francis Clegg, Alexander Lomax, elders.

4.—Mr. Samuel Birche, of Openshawe, examined and approved for a ruleinge elder in the congregation at Gorton.[1]

5.—Master John Firth was examined (in reference to ordination) accordinge to the rules for examinacon expressed in the ordinance and approved.

6.—Master Firth brought a certificate of his proficiency in his studies in the Universitie of Cambridge, and of the tyme of his aboade there to proceede M^r^ of Artes; as alsoe a certificate of his free & faire call to Fynningley in Nottinghamshire, as alsoe of his life and conversacon.

7.—Master Firth promised to take the nationall covenn^tt^ if it shall bee tendred by the same authoritie as formerly it hath beene tendred.

8.—Mr. Firth his thesis—*an fidelis potest esse certus de salute sua.* Affir.

9.—There must bee a delegation for the provintiall assembly the next classe.

10.—Mr. Firth to be ordayned at Manchester the 15^th^ day of March next.

[1] This is the "old Captain Samuel" of Newcome's *Diary*, the father of Colonel John and Capt. Samuel. (See Dugdale's *Visitation*, p. 34.) He died in 166⅘. His will is given in Mr. Booker's *History of Birch*, where is also an account of the members of the family. The elder signs the protestation among the inhabitants of Openshaw as Samuel Bertch, and did not remove to Ordsall Hall till after the Restoration.

11.—Mr. Walton to preach, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Meeke to pray; Mr. Harrison to give the exhortation, and to pray at the imposition of hands; Mr. Hollinworth to conclude with prayer.

12.—Master Firth is to preach the next classe.

Master Hollinworth moderator the next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 44th MEETEINGE at Manchester, May 14, anno Dni 1650.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Mr. John Firth preached before the classe accordinge to order.

Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Smith, John Brownesword, elders.

Denton: No minister; Robt. Hyde, Esquire, John Gee, elders.

Newton: No minister; John Wright, an elder there.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; Thomas Fylds, Thos. Edge, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Robt. Lees, Hugh Tayler, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; John Smith, John Worrall, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Taylor, Samuel Pendleton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Durye, minister.

3.—Mr Firth mantayned his dispute upon this thesis—*an fidelis potest esse certus de salute sua.* Affir. et approved.

4.—Mr. Firth returned his instrument affixed and subscribed.

5.—Mr. John Leake promised to bringe a testimoniall of the soundnes of his doctrine, and of his liffe and conversation under

the hands of severall ministers, as alsoe subscribed by severall honest men, whereas hee hath lived lately.

6.—Delegates appointed to attend the provinciall assemblie at Preston the first Tuesday in June next:

Mr. Hollingworth Mr. Harrison Mr. Walton	ministers.	Robert Hyde, Esquire Robt. Ashton, Esquire Mr. Henry Wrigley Thomas Smith Thomas Rogers Thomas Byron	ruleinge elders.

7.—A day of humiliation to bee upon Wednesday, the 29th of May instant, to seeke the Lord for the removeall of the manifould distractions that lye upon us.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator the next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The next classe to bee the second Tuesday in June next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

ORDINATION, BY THE PRESBITERS OF THE FIRST CLASSIS IN THE COUNTIE OF LANCASTER, OF ONE EXPECTANT, VIZ., MR. JOHN FIRTH, MAY 15, 1650.

Whereas Mr. John Firth, Batchelor of Arts, aged about 25 yeares, hath addressed himselfe unto us, the Presbyters of the first classis of the Province within the County Palatine of Lancaster, authorised for ordination of ministers by ordinance of both Houses of Parliam^{tt} dated the 29th of August, 1648, desireinge to bee ordayned a presbyter, for that hee is chosen for the worke of the ministrie in the Church of Fynningley in the countie of Nottingham, as by a certificate now remaineinge with us touchinge that his election appeareth, and hee haveinge likewise given satisfaccon concerneinge the Solemne League and Covenant, and exhibited a sufficient testimoniall of his diligence and proficiency in his studies, and unblameablenesse of liffe and conversacon, hath beene examined accordinge to the rules for examination in the said ordinance expressed, and thereupon approved, and there haveinge beene noe just exception made agn^{tt} his ordination and admission, *theise* may testifie to all whom it may concerne, that upon the fifteenth day of this moneth of May, wee have proceeded solemnely to set him aparte to the office of a presbyter and worke of the ministry of the Gospell by the layinge on of hands, with fastinge and prayer, by vertue whereof wee doe declare him to bee a lawful and sufficiently authorized minister of Jesus Christ, and haveinge good evidence of his lawfull and faire callinge, not onely to the worke of the ministry, but to the exercise thereof in the Church of Fyneingeley in the countie afforesaid, wee doe hereby actually admitte him to the said charge to performe all the offices and duties of a faithfull pastor there, exhortinge the people in the

name of Jesus Christ willingly to receive and acknowledge him as the minister of Christ, and to mantayne and encourage him in the execution of his office, that hee may bee able to give up such an account to Christ of theire obedience to his ministry as may bee to his joye and theire everlasting comfort. In witnes whereof wee have hereunto sett our hands this fifteenth day of May, anno Domini 1650.

Apud Manchester in Com. Lanc.

An Assistant Minister.

The 45th MEETEINGE at Manchester, June 11th, 1650.

1.—Mr. Harrison, moderator, begune with prayer, because Mr. Hollinworth was not well, beinge chosen moderator by the precedent classe.

2.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge :

Manchester : Mr. Walker, minister ; Robt. Bradshawe, Thomas Smith, elders.

Blakley : Mr. Walton, minister ; John Rowson, John Travis, elders.

Eccles : No minister ; Thomas Edge, William Smith, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne : Mr. Harrison, minister ; John Sandiford, Ottiwell Andrewe, elders.

Newton : No minister ; John Wright, Peter Ashton, elders.

Denton : No minister ; Robert Hyde, Esquire, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ouldham : No minister ; Edward Sandiford, Samuel Scofield, elders.

Prestwich : No minister ; Peter Sergeant, James Wroe, elders.

3.—Upon considration and advice of the classe it was thought fitt and convenient that the sermon should be omitted for this tyme.

4.—Mr. John Leake did not appeare to bringe in his testimoniall, wh was then expected.

5.—An accompte was given from the provintiall assemblie by one of the delegates sent thither from this classe.

6.—The next provintiall assemblie is to bee at Preston the first Tuesday in November next.

Mr. Harrison is to preache the next classe.

Mr. Walker to bee moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in July next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 46 MEETEINGE at Manchester, July 9th, 1650.

1.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Mr. Harrison preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge :—

Manchester : No minister ; Mr. Meare, Mr. Briddocke, Mr. Wright, Mr. Smith, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne : Mr. Harrison, minister ; Robt. Ashton, Esq., Robert Leech, elders.

Ouldham : Mr. Constantyne, minister ; Robt. Leeze, James Leeze, elders.

Denton : Mr. Angier, minister ; William Booth, Robt. Turner, elders.

Salford : Mr. Meeke, minister ; Mr. Stampe, William Higinbothome, elders.

Newton : Mr. Walker, minister ; Thos. Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Prestwich : No minister ; James Wroe, Adam Gaskell, elders.

Eccles : Mr. Jones, junior, minister ; Richard Edge, Thomas Fylds, elders.

Blakeley : Mr. Walton, minister ; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Mr. Harrison preached before the classe accordinge to order.

4.—Mr. John Leake did not appeare this classe as hee was then expected.

5.—Mr. Harrison and Mr. Angier are desired to drawe up a Directory of suspencon from the Lords supper in order to excommunication of such persons as have committed scandells and refuse to give satisfaccon.

6.—A day of humiliation to bee at Manchester, Newton, and Ouldham, upon Wednesday, the seaventeenth day of July instant.

7.—Mr. Angier to preach the next classe.
Mr. Constantyne moderator the next classe.
Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in August next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 47th MEETEINGE at Manchester, August 13°, an° Dni 1650.

1.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Walker, ministers; Robert Bradshawe, Rowland Wright, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esquire, Robt. Collier, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, Edmund Heywood, Robert Bardsley, elders.

Blakley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Pendleton, Robt. Rowson, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Dury, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esquire, Samuel Birche, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; Peter Sergeant, James Wroe, elders.

Salford: No minister; Philippe Stampe, elder.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; the elders deputed desire to bee excused.

Ouldham: Noe minister; John Travis, John Scoles, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

3.—Mr. Angier preached before the classe accordinge to order.

4.—Mr. Warden, Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Walker, Mr. Meeke, ministers; and Robert Hyde, esquire, Thomas Strangwayes, esquire, Thomas Smith and Samuel Birche, elders, are desired to

meete upon Tuesday next, at Tenn a clocke in the forenoon, to consider of a Directorie for suspention from the Lords supper.

5.—A case of conscience to bee resolved, that is: How farre a man may keepe communion with one that is notoriously knowne to hould heresie.

6.—Mr. Warden to preach the next classe.

Mr. Constantyne moderator the next classe.

The next classe to bee the second Tuesday in September next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 48th MEETEINGE at Manchester, September 10th, 1650.

1.—Mr. Constantine, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Mr. Warden preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipp deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Warden, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Mr. Meare, Mr. Brownesword, Mr. Smith, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Robert Bardsley, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Mr. Wrigley, John Leese, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Mr. Stampe, Wm. Heginbothome, elders.

Blakley: Mr. Walton, minister; Sam. Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esquire; William Booth, elders.

Prestwich: Noe minister; James Wroe, Adam Gaskell, elders.

Gorton: Noe minister; Tho. Strangewayes, Esquire, Wm. Birtenshawe, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; John Wright, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister; Peter Seddon, senior, John Walworth, elders.

4.—Mr. Walker, of Newton, to preach the next classe.

5.—Mr. Hollinworth is desired to revise the Directory for suspention from the Lords supper.

6.—Mr. Hollinworth moderator the next classe.

7.—Delegates are to bee appointed the next classe to attend the Provintiall Assemblie at Preston the first Tuesday in November next.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in October next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 49th MEETEINGE at Manchester, October the 8th, 1650.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Mr. Walker, of Newton, preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Walker, minister; Robert Bradshawe, an elder.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; William Booth, Robert Stansfield, minister.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Lawrance Wright, John Thorpe, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Sam. Tayler, John Rowson, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; John Wright, Thomas Baron, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Mr. Stampe, Wm. Heginbothome, elders.

Eccles: No minister; Thomas Fyldes, Thomas Edge, elders.

Gorton: Noe minister; Samuel Birche, Alexander Heron, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; John Smith, John Worrall, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Thomas Holland, minister; noe elders.

4.—A day of humiliacon to bee observed upon the last Thursday in October instant in reference to the provinciall meeteinge, with other of God's judgments now already amongst us.

5.—Delegates appointed to attend the Provintiall Assemblie at Preston the first Tuesday in November next:—

Delegates—

Mr. Rich. Heyricke, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Angier } ministers.

Richard Edge, Sam. Birche, James Wroe, Alexander Heron, John Sandiford, Wm. Heginbothom } elders.

A Directorie for Suspention from the Lord's Supper.

Forasmuch as A. B. hath been convinced { by witnes or / his owne confession / or both } before the eldershipe of this congregation to stand guilty of { adulterie / fornication / or the like } they haveinge seriously considered the haynousnes and scandalousnesse of the sinne in itself (heere let some fewe pertinent scriptures bee produced to prove the greatnesse of the said sinne), and the severall aggravateinge circumstances thereof in A. B. (here let the aggravations bee mentioned), and haveinge used all christian and loveinge means to bring him to the sight of, and godly sorrowe for, his greevouse sinne (here the means

used by the eldershipe may be speatified in case of his appearance or non-appearance), by which God is greatly dishonoured, his soule endangered, the rest of the church grieved and offended, and occasion given to others to speeke evill of the wayes of God, yet not perceiveinge that godly sorrowe w^ch^ worketh repentance to liffe, and a readinesse and willingnesse to give suitable satisfaccon; have in the name and power of the Lord Jesus Christ, accordinge to theire duty, and the merrit of his sine and carriage, juditiallie suspended him from the holy ordinance of the Lords supper, wayteinge and prayinge that God would open his eyes, touche his hart, mightily convince and humble him, and renew repentance in him, & earnestly desire you, in the bowells of the Lord Jesus Christ, to helpe forward the worke of God, to pittie him, and pray for him, that (if it bee possible) there may bee noe necessity of proceedinge to a further and heavier censure against him.

Mr. Jones to preach the next classe.
Mr. Hollinworth moderator the next classe.
Next classe to be the second Tuesday in November next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 50^th^ MEETEINGE at Manchester, November the 12^o^, 1650.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Mr. Jones, junior, preached before the classe accordeinge to order.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Warden, Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Walker, ministers; Robert Bradshawe, John Brownesword, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne : Mr. Harrison, minister ; Capt. Ashton, Robt. Leach, elders.

Blakeley : Mr. Walton, minister ; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Salford : Mr. Meeke, minister ; noe elder.

Denton : No minister ; John Gee, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton : Noe minister ; Tho. Strangewayes, Esquire, Sam. Birch, elders.

Newton : No minister ; John Wright, an elder.

Prestwich : Noe minister ; James Wroe, Adam Gaskell, elder.

Eccles : Thomas Rogers, Wm. Smith, elders.

Ouldham : None appeared.

4.—Mr. Warden did give an account from the provinciall assemblie at Preston.

5.—A note to bee sent to the severall ministers and elders within this classe, to the end it may appeare wherefore they doe not acte soe freely in the goverm^{tt} as formerly.

6.—The congregacon at Gorton desire the approbation of this classe that Mr. Norman may officiate with them one quarter of a yeare in reference of theire approvall of him.

7.—A summons to bee sent to Mr. Odcroft, preacher at Stretford.

8.—Mr. Jones, junior, is desired to give private notice to Mr. Valentine, preacher at Ellinworth chappell [Ellenbrooke] to attend the next classe at Manchester.

9.—Mr. Arthur Francis was examined accordinge to the rules for examinacon in the ordinance expressed, and approved.

10.—Mr. Arthur Francis brought in a discharge from Lambly in Notinghamshire.

11.—Mr. Arthure Francis thesis—*an Christus plane satisfecit pro peccatis electorum.* Affir. def.

12.—Mr. Arthur Francis to preach the next classe if hee intend to proceed to ordinacon ; if not Mr. Meeke is to preach in his place.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in December next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The next provintiall meeteinge to bee at Preston the first Tuesday after Whitsunday next.

The 51 MEETEINGE at Manchester, December 10th, anº Dni 1650.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Mr. Arthur Francis preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Walker, ministers; Raphe Briddocke, Thomas Dickonson, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; not anye ruleinge elder.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Robt. Lees, Hughe Tayler, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esquire, Robert Stansfield, elders.

Blakley: Mr. Walton, minister; John Rowson, John Travis, elders.

Prestwich: Noe minister; Peter Sergeant, Adam Gaskell, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; Thomas Edge, an elder.

Gorton: Noe minister; Wm. Birtinshawe, Alexander Heron, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Peter Ashton, Thomas Baron, elders.

4.—A letter to bee sent to Mr. Marbury,[1] with other of the

[1] Mr. Marbury of Marbury. I am uncertain whether William or Thomas. (See Canon Parkinson's note in *Adam Martindale*, p. 80; and *Local Gleanings*, ii. 175-6.) The names of both appear in the list of wills proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1653.

gentlemen & parishioners of Great Budworth in Cheshire, to signifie unto them that Mr. Arthure Francis hath been before us and desired ordination, w^ch^ thing hath beene hitherto forborne. Your answeares concerneinge his faire and free callinge to Budworth aforesaid is desired.

5.—It is ordred that a day of humiliation shall bee upon Thursday, the 26^th^ of December instant, in severall congregations within this classe, in reference to the cryeinge sines of the tymes, and peoples generall unaffectednes therewith, notwithstandinge the Judgements of God hangeinge over our heads and upon us, and perticularly the fever that is rife and mortall in severall places, and the unseasonablenesse of the weather.

6.—Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in January next.

7.—Mr. Hollinworth moderator the next classe.

8.—Mr. Meeke to preach the next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 52 MEETEINGE at Manchester, January 14, 165$\frac{8}{9}$.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge.

3.—Mr. Meeke preached before the classe accordinge to order.

Manchester: Mr. Warden, Mr. Walker, ministers; Robt. Bradshawe, John Brownsword, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; noe elder.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; John Sandiford, Lawrance Wright, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Roson, elders.

Eccles: Noe minister; Richard Edge, an elder.

Denton
Ouldham } Neither minister nor elder appeard.
Newton

Gorton: Mr. Norman, minister; Thomas Strangewayes, Esquire, Sam. Birch, elders.

4.—The perticuler eldershipps are desired to [give notice] to their respective members that they are required to shew cause why they doe fall off from theire offices.

5.—William Peake did appeare from Ellingbrooke, and evidenced that there was not a full agreement for Mr. Valentyne, and desired to know when anythinge was to bee done concerneinge him there.

6.—Mr. Norman to preach the next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth to bee moderator next classe.

The next classe to bee the second Tuesday in February next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 53 MEETEINGE at Manchester, 11 February, 165$\frac{9}{1}$.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begunne with prayer.

2.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge.

3.—Mr. Norman preached before the classe accordeinge to order.

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Walker, ministers; Rowland Wright, Tho. Smith, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esquire, Ottiwell Andrew, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, an elder.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esquire, William Booth, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Norman, minister; Samuel Birche, William Bertinshawe, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; John Wright, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: No minister; Thomas Rogers, Thomas Fylds, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; Peter Sergeant, Adam Gaskell, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; John Travis, John Rowson, elders.

4.—Agreed that the names of all such elders as are appointed to attend the classe shall bee recorded in writeinge.

5.—Agreed that a publicke fast day bee observed at Manchester the last Wednesday of February instant.

6.—Agreed likewise than an other fast bee observed at Prestwich upon Wednesday the twelfth day of March next.

The grounds of both these fasts are the great and cryeinge sins of the tymes, the heavie Judgments of God upon us and hangeinge over our heads, and the general sencelessnesse of people under both sin and judgment.

7.—It is agreed that there shall bee an exercise kept in every congregation within this classe successively as this classe shall appoint.

8.—Mr. Harrison and Mr. Meeke to preach at Manchester. Mr. John Walker & Mr. William Walker to pray there.

9.—Mr. Angier and Mr. Hollinworth to preach at Prestwich.

10.—It is agreed that the register bee reviewed, and that persons bee designed the next classe for that purpose.

11.—Mr. Thomas Holland to preach the next classe.

Mr. Warden moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in March next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

A Coppie of a Warrant.

By virtue of an order of the provinciall assemblie at Preston, November 5, 1650, wee, the first classis of the province of Lancaster, doe require you, the minister and elders of ———, to demand of ——— one of your elders the reason of his withdraweinge from the duty of his office, or of his absentinge [himself] from the eldershipe, that you may certifie us thereof, and wee may give account thereof to the provinciall assemblie as wee are required.

The 54 MEETEINGE at Manchester, March 11°, anno dni 165$\frac{1}{2}$.

1.—Mr. Warden, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Mr. Thomas Holland sent into the classe his letter of excuse signifieinge unto them that hee was not well, and thereupon the sermon was deferred.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Walker, ministers; Tho. Smith, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister.

Eccles: No minister; Tho. Rogers, Richard Edge, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; Peter Sergeant, James Wroe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Sam. Pendleton, Sam. Tayler, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Norman, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esquire, an elder.

Ouldham: No minister; John Travis, John Scoles, elders.

4.—The persons delegated to reviewe the register are :—

Mr. Warden, Mr. Hollinworth,
Mr. Harrison, Mr. Angier,
Mr. Walker, Mr. Meeke,
} ministers, etc.

Robt. Ashton, Esquire, Tho. Strangewayes, Esquire,
Robt. Hyde, Esquire, William Booth,
Peter Sergeant, Samuel Birch, Thomas Smith,
} elders, etc.

5.—Mr. Clayton, minister at Didsbury, did withdraw from the classis, and departed out of the classis without anie order from the classis.

6.—Mr. Hollinworth and Mr. Johnson are desired to goe to Flixton to speake to Mr. Wolmer and the elders there to demand the reason of theire withdrawinge from theire offices and absentinge themselves from the classis.

7.—It is agreed that a fast day bee observed at Eccles the 26° of March ; Mr. Warden and Mr. Walton to preach.

8.—It is alsoe agreed that an other fast day bee observed at Gorton April the 9° ; Mr. William Walker and Mr. Benson to preach.

9.—The meeteinge for revieweinge the register will bee on every Tuesday, begininge the 18th of March instant, and soe to continue untill it bee ended.

10.—A note sent to William Peake concerninge a certificate that Mr. Valentyne brought into the classe implyinge the peoples desire at Ellingbrooke to have him officiate at Ellingbrooke.

Mr. Walton moderator next classe.

Mr. Holland to preach the next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in Aprill next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

11.—Ordred that a summons bee sent to Mr. Lake to appeare the next classis.

12.—A COPPIE OF A SUMMONS, March 11, an° Dni $165\frac{0}{1}$.

Sir,—

The classe, takeinge notice of your officiateinge at Ouldham

without theire approbacion, and not haveinge received satisfaction that you are a lawfull ordayned minister, doe desire and expecte your appearance at the next classical meeteinge the second Tuesday in April next.

For Mr. A. B. These

The 55th MEETEINGE at Manchester, Aprill 8, anº dni 1651.

1.—Mr. Walton, moderator, begun with prayer.

2.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Warden, Mr. Walker, ministers; Mr. Tho. Smith, Robert Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Robert Bardsley, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; no elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Norman, minister; Samuel Birch, William Bertinshawe, elders.

Eccles: Noe minister; Thomas Edge, an elder.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Peter Ashton, an elder.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister.

Salford, Prestwich, and Ouldham } Not any minister or elder.

3.—Mr. Holland beinge appointed to preach did attend, but is continued for the next classe.

4.—It is ordered that whosoever from henceforth absent himselfe from the classe that is deputed thereunto, without giveinge in a sufficient excuse, shall bee admonished.

5.—Mr. Hollinworth and Thomas Edge are further desired to goe to Flixton to speake to Master Woolmer and the elders

there to demand the reason of theire withdrawinge from theire offices and absentinge themselves from the classe.

6.—A letter sent to Mr. John Lake in reference to his forbeareinge the administracon of the Lords supper.

7.—Mr. Lake did appeare this classis.

8.—A COPPIE OF THE LETTER sent to Mr. John Lake, viz.: Sir,—

It being evident to us that you doe officiate within this classis without approbacon obtained or sought, and you haveinge declared that your resolucon is to administer the supper of the Lord with the professed neglect of the eldershipe chosen[1] & constituted in that congregation and by your solitarie power, will admitt to, and suspend from, the supper; wee being very sensible of your irregular walkinge herein, to the rule of the word & expresse command of the civill authority, do (in tender respect to the glory of God, the purity of the ordinance and good of the people) intreate & require you to forbear such administration of the supper, and to entertaine a brotherly conference with us accordinge to the motion wee made to you (though at present refused by you) that wee may, through the blessinge of God, satisfie the scrupils that hinder your orderly and regular acting with us, both in the congregacon & classis. Thus perswadeinge ourselves of your Christian & brotherly carriage in the perticulers mentioned, wee comitt you to God and rest.

Yours,
Subscribed in the name and by the appointm[tt]
of this classis, etc.,
by James Walton, Moderator *pro tempore.*[1]

[1] See Notes pp. 28, 61. By the ordinance of 20th October, 1645, it was determined that the "Examination and Judgment of such persons as shall for their ignorance of the (enumerated) points of religion not be admitted to the Sacrament of the Lord Supper is to be in the power of the eldership of every congregation" (similarly for scandal).

The actual working of the ordinance led to much dissension of the kind in the text. The question of the orderly administration of the Sacrament was a vital one in the

A COPPIE OF THE LETTER or Sumons sent to Mr. Valentyne:

Sir—

Forasmuch as this classe taks notice that you have officiated at Ellinbrooke a longe tyme and yet are not ordayned, they doe

Presbyterian Church system. The jurisdiction exercised by the Presbytery was purely a moral one, and its only sanction was exclusion from the Sacrament. If such a system had been uniformly worked, it would have resulted in the creation of a homogeneous body of church members, and clericalism would have become as assertive a force as it proved in Scotland. That such a result did not ensue was due to the fact that the system was not uniformly worked. It was an impossibility to so work it. Several of the congregations in the Manchester Classis were loth, or positively refused, to elect an eldership. In other cases (as in that of Oldham) the minister himself proved refractory, while in many parts of the country the scheme was not even attempted. Throughout the whole period of this attempt at a Presbyterian government, the question of a pure as against a mixed communion remained hotly contested, but it is very plain on which side the actual victory lay. In their despair at being unable to enforce the system, many Presbyterian clergyman dropped the administration of the ordinance altogether—a course which was condemned by others of the body as a more serious evil even than a "mixed" or "disorderly" administration. The full scope of the controversy can only be understood on a perusal of these and similar "classical minutes." During the years 1645-8, while Presbyterianism was dominant, the experiment of trial and suspension was resolutely made in some parts of Lancashire, but there is no trace of any such action in any other part of the country. The state of the case as regards London can be partially gathered from the following entries from the minutes of the 4th classis of London:

"Decem. 22, 1646.

That, according to an ordinance of Parliament, there shall be a trial by conference or examination of the fitness of all that are to be admitted to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper before the eldership.

July 17, 1648.

Report from committee about receiving of strangers to the Sacrament:

Resolved (1) That noe stranger whosoever bee admitted to ye participation of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper without consent of the eldership.

(2) That noe strangers be admitted but such of whom the eldership have satisfaction concerning their knowledge, and that their conversation be not scandalous, and that this satisfaction bee given either by conference with the eldership, or else by testimonial in scriptis.

(3) That none be entertained or continued but such as shall be willing to returne to there owne congregation when an eldership is there settled, and the Sacrament administered in an orderly way.

October 16, 1648.

The orderly administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper taken into consideration, rules made in former meetings read and considered.

A clause in the form of Church government read and considered: 'That the congregational eldership, consisting of the minister or ministers and the other ruling officers of that congregation, shall

signifie to you that they cannot approve of your officiateinge there any longer, excepte you tender yourselfe to ordination, and therefore doe desire and expecte that at theire next meeteinge, w^ch^ will bee the second Tuesday in the next moneth, you doe come so prepared as is required by the rules in the ordinance for ordination that soe they may forthwith proceed to the tryall and examination of you in reference thereunto.

Mr. Angier moderator next classe.
Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in May next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 56 MEETEINGE at Manchester, May 13°, an° Dni 1651.

1.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: No minister[1]; Mr. Johnson, Mr. Meare, & Mr. Tho. Dickonson, elders.

have power as they shall see just occasion to enquire into the knowledge and spiritual estate of any member of the congregation.'

VOTED:

To send round copies of the orders of December 22, 1646, and July 17, 1648 (to the congregations of the classis)."

So far as the 4th classis was concerned the matter was pursued no further.

On the triumph of Independency, the spirit of clericalism was broken, and the question fell into abeyance—a result that would appear at first sight surprising, since church-membership qualification was a more important feature in the Congregational system than it was in the Presbyterian even. It may be that the result was due to an ecclesiastical jealousy between the two systems quite as much as to the weakened and humiliated condition to which Presbyterianism was reduced on the triumph of Independency. Accordingly, as will be seen, the active resumption of censorial jurisdiction was not attempted till 1656 (see *postea*), at a time when there seemed some hope of an approximation between the Independents and Presbyterians. In this case, too, it was equally futile.

[1] Heyrick was absent from the May meeting, present at the June and July meetings, acting as moderator at the latter, and then does not reappear until

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillippe Stampe, an elder.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Lees, Hughe Tayler, elders.

Denton: Robt. Hyde, Esquire, Robert Stansfield, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Rowson, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esquire; Sam. Birch, Alex. Heron, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; Thomas Rogers, an elder.

Prestwich: No minister; Peter Sergeant, James Wroe, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Thomas Holland, minister.

Newton: Mr. John Walker, minister; John Wright, Thomas Baron, elders.

Ouldham: No minister nor elder.

3.—The minister and elders at Flixton returned theire answears in writinge, but it was judged by the ministers and elders in this classe not satisfactory, and, therefore, a conferance is

the following January. These dates are a little puzzling because of the known order of events which ensued upon the discovery of Christopher Love's conspiracy. Love was arrested about the 7th of May in this year 1651. On the 11th June the committee for examinations was ordered to send for twelve persons "to examine them concerning their share in the London conspiracy." (*State Papers Domestic*, under date.) Amongst them was Heyrick. When he was actually imprisoned does not appear, but on the 3rd September an order was made, "on the petition of Mr. Herrick, that he sign the same, and it be then referred to the committee for examinations." On the 3rd September he was ordered, with nine others, to be speedily brought to trial "touching the late treason and conspiracy for which Mr. Love was convicted and executed" (p. 457). Apparently intercession was made for him; for three days after the following order was made: "Mr. Attorney to send for Mr. Herrick, and confer with him and the witnesses to be produced in his case, and propose that he take the Engagement." "October 4, note that Mr. Herrick took the Engagement this day." "Mr. Herrick to be discharged from imprisonment on bond of £400 and two sureties of £200 each, if he can procure them, on the usual conditions." (*State Papers Domestic*, 1651, pp. 401, 457, 465-6.)

According to Wood, Heyrick was saved by the effort of "a certain noble person." In his copy of the *Athenæ Oxonienses*, Mr. J. E. Bailey has marked this person as Sir Geo. Booth. On what authority?

appointed to bee had with them the 10th of June next, wch will bee the day of the classe at Manchester.

4.—Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Harrison, ministers, } are appointed to
Robt. Hyde, Esquire, Sam. Birch, elders, } that conference.

5.—Delegates appointed by the first classe, May 13, to attend the provinciall assembly at Preston, May 27th, are:

Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Angier, Mr. Jones, junior, ministers.
Mr. Johnson, Robt. Stansfield, Mr. Diconson, } Elders.
Robt. Lees, & Sam. Birch, James Lees, }

6.—A letter or sumons sent to Mr. Valentyne concerneinge his officiateinge at Ellingbrooke, wch summons was delivred to William Peake.

7.—A letter was sent to Mr. John Lake concerneinge his forbearance the administracon of the Lords supper.

8.—It is ordered that a fast bee observed at Gorton upon Wednesday, the 21st day of May instant; Mr. John Walker and Mr. Walton to preach.

9.—It is also ordered that an exercise bee observed at Eccles, Wednesday the 11th of June next; Mr. Wm. Walker, if not disabled by sicknes, to preach; if hee bee, then Mr. Benson and Mr. Thomas Holland are to preach.

10.—The classe beinge informed that Mr. John Lake had administred the sacramtt of the Lords supper notwithstandinge theire admonition to him to the contrary, they therefore desired the elders of Ouldham to bringe in what witnesses they could against there next meeteinge to prove that, that they might proceede against him by censure.

11.—Evan Clarke is appointed to goe to Mr. Odcroft, & to tell him that the classe expects his attendance the second Tuesday in June next; as alsoe to speake to Mr. Benson, to see what hee can say concerneinge the course Mr. Odcroft houlds in makeinge clandestine wedings, baptizeinge children, and concerneinge his liffe and conversacon.

12.—Mr. Walton to preach the next classe.

Mr. Meeke moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in June next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 57th MEETEINGE, June the 10th, anº Dni 1651.

1.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge.

2.—Mr. Walton preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Mr. Meeke, moderator, begune with prayer.

Manchester: Mr. Warden, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; noe elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, Wm. Higinbothom, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Robt. Leech and Ottiwell Andrewe, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; William Booth & Robert Turner, elders.

Blakley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Pendleton, John Travis, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Norman, minister; William Birtinshawe, Robt. Hulm, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; John Wright, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; Richard Edge, William Smith, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, James Smethurst, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister; Peter Sedon, John Walworke, elders.

Ouldham: No minister; Samuel Scofield, John Worrall, elders.

4.—The provinciall assemblie was adjourned untill the second Tuesday in November next.

5.—Samuel Tayler, speakeinge somethinge concerneinge Mr. Odcroft, is further desired to enquire of witnesses, what any can testifie about his makeinge unlawfull marriages, baptizeinge of children, or if hee bee scandalouse in his liffe and conversacon.

6.—Witnesses appeared concerneinge Mr. John Lake administringe the Lords supper.

7.—Caleb Broadhead, aged about 34 yeares, examined upon oath saith, that twoe severall saboath dayes, about the seacond and third saboath after Easter, w^ch^ were the 13^th^ and 20^th^ of Aprill, 1651, beinge at Ouldham Church those twoe saboath dayes, hee sawe the comunion table spread and flagons upon the table in preparation for the Lords supper as hee conceives, and that hee heard Mr. Lake speake these words, or words to the like effect, the afternoone of the first day, that forasmuch as hee had given warneinge for persons to bee examined before they were admitted to the Sacram^tt^, his intent was onely of strangers w^ch^ was not of his owne congregation, & hee desired such as kept away on that ground would come the next Saboath and comunicate with him, for hee stood not upon that formalitie of examination.

8.—John Worrall, of Ouldham, in the countie of Lancaster, aged about 66, deposed and saith that to the best of his now remembrance the first Saboath day after Mr. Lake, minister at Ouldham, had beene before the classis at Manchester, hee beinge at Ouldham in the aforenoone of the said day, hee there saw the comunion table covered and vessells thereon, as hee conceived, in preparation to the Lords supper, and as hee, this deponent, heard the number of the communicants were but few, and hee beinge there in the afternoone, hee heard the said Mr. Lake publickly say to the congregacon that hee did conceive that the people were mistaken touchinge the warneinge given by him for examination, for his intent and meaneinge was that yonge folks that had not formerly received the Sacrament and strangers should have comne to have beene examined and not others.

9.—Evan Clarke brought Mr. Odcroft's answeare in writeinge, & it was deferred to the next monethly meetinge.

10.—It is ordered that a fast day bee observed at Manchester the 25th of June instant.

11.—It is alsoe ordered that a fast bee observed at Ellinbrooke the neenth day of July next comeinge.

Mr. Warden moderator the next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth to preach the next classe.

The next classe to bee the second Tuesday in July next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 58th MEETEINGE at Manchester, July 8, 1651.

Mr. Warden, moderator, begune with prayer.

1.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

2.—Manchester: Mr. Warden, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Mr. Meare, Mr. Smith, Row. Wright, elders.

Mr. Hollinworth preached before the classe accordinge to order.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, an elder; William Heginbothom, absent.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Mr. Harison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Robert Bardsley, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esquire, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Rowson, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, John Scoles, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: No minister; William Smith, an elder; Thomas Edge absent.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister; Peter Seddon, senior, absent,
John Wardleworth, an elder.

3.—Mr. Warden is desired to request the assistance of some Justice of peace in relacon to the ordinance of parliam^tt^ concerneinge Mr. Odcrofts contempte of the classe.[1]

4.—Mr. Smith is desired to speake to Mr. Valentyne, and withall to request him to come to Manchester to conferre with Mr. Warden and Mr. Hollinworth.

5.—Agreed that warrants bee sent forth to require some witnesses to come before the classe to testifie what they can concerneinge Mr. Odcroft.

6.—Agreed that an exercise bee observed at Denton, upon Wednesday, the 23rd of July instant. Mr. Harrison, Mr. Walton to preach.

7.—Agreed that an exercise bee observed at Ashton-under-lyne, upon Wednesday, the 13th of August. Mr. Angier, Mr. Walker to preach.

Mr. Harrison to preach the next classe.

Mr. Warden moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in August next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

[1] Ordinance for Church government, 5th March, 164⅝; C. J., vol. iv. p. 463:
"XVIII.—That the eldership of each congregation, or the major part of them, as also the classis of each province or major part of them, as also the provincial commissioners or major part of them after they shall be assembled, shall have power, by warrant under their hands in all cases whereof they have cognizance by any ordinance of Parliament, to convene before them all persons against whom any complaint shall be brought by virtue of any such ordinance, and all such witnesses as shall be named according to any such ordinance, for the discovery of the truth of any such complaint; *and in case any such person shall refuse to appear*, not being a peer of this realm, member of the House of Commons, or assistant of the House of Peers or officer of the House of Parliament, *then, after complaint made to the next Justice of Peace, the party refusing shall be brought before him, and, in case of obstinate persisting, shall be committed by the said Justice of peace till he submit to the order.*"
In the Bury minutes will be found not a few of these appeals to the secular power.

The 59th MEETEINGE at Manchester, August 12, anº dni 1651.

1.—Mr. Harison preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begune with prayer.

Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meetinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Robt. Bradshawe, John Brownsword, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esquire, Lawrance Wright, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; John Gee, Robert Collier, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; William Heginbothom, an elder, Phillip Stampe. absent.

Blakley: Mr. Walton, minister; Sam. Pendlton, Samuel Tayler, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esquire, William Bertinshawe, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; John Wright, an elder, Thomas Baron, absent.

Prestwich: No minister nor elder.

Ouldham: No minister nor elder.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; William Smith, an elder, Thomas Edge, absent.

3.—The busines of the last classe was deferred because much thereof did relate to Mr. Warden, and hee unexpectedly called away.

4.—Ordred that an instrumtt, or *si quis*, bee given to Mr. Francis, to bee affixt on the chappell doore at Stretford.

5.—Agreed that an exercise bee observed at Newton, on Wednesday, the 27th of August instant. Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Meeke to preache.

6.—Agreed that an exercise bee observed at Blakeley, on Wednesday, the 10th of September next. Mr. Angier, Mr. Harrison to preach.

Mr. Walker, to preach the next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

THE CLASSE did not meete togeather in the moneth of September, 1651.[1]

[1] There is still much to discover as to the relations between the Lancashire Presbyterians and the leaders of the second Scotch expedition. After Dunbar, and up to July in this year, 1651, Charles II. and Leslie had remained entrenched at Stirling. On the 31st, they broke away and marched South, entering England on the 6th of August. The route to Worcester led Charles through Lancashire. For the course of events here, see *Civil War Tracts*, p. 286 *seq.* The march through Lancashire occupied from the 9th to the 16th August, 1651. On the 25th, the Earl of Derby was defeated at Wigan by Colonel Robert Lilburne. The battle of Worcester was fought on the 3rd September.

Clarendon says: "Nobody imagined the Presbyterians of Lancashire to be of the Scottish humour, or unwilling to unite and join with the Scottish forces, . . . nor indeed were they (vol. vi. p. 493), and in the interview at Warrington with the Earl of Derby, the points insisted on by the Presbyterians were apparently only the taking of the Covenant and the removal of the papists."

How disastrous was the effect of the battle of Worcester on the course of Lancashire Presbyterianism will be apparent from these minutes. Heyrick had been arrested in Manchester and sent up to London sometime between July 8th and August 12th. It was probably after Worcester fight that his fellow-ministers Johnson, Herle, Angier, Hollinworth, Harrison, Gee, Latham, Taylor, and Meeke were arrested on suspicion of correspondence with Charles Stuart. They were taken to Liverpool, but removed thence to Ormskirk because of the plague. Whilst in prison there, they occupied themselves with disputations, which resulted in "That excellent treatise of Mr. Gee's on prayer" (Heywood, vol. i. p. 533; see also Newcome *Autob.*, pp. 33, 35). The names given here are from Martindale and Heywood, but it is noticeable that they do not correspond with those of the authentic document in the *State Papers*. The difference is considerable. "Make strict examination of *Mr. Herle* of Winwick, *Mr. Harper* of Bolton, *Mr. Johnson* of Halsall, *Mr. Gee* of Eccleston, and *Mr. Lathom* of Standish, or any other minister or

The 60th MEETEINGE at Manchester, Oct. 14°, 1651.

This classe is adjorned untill the seacond Tuesday in November next.

The 61 MEETEINGE at Manchester, November 11, an° dni 1651.

1.—Mr. John Harison, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

3.—Mr. Walker preached before the classe accordinge to order.

Manchester: No minister; Thomas Smith, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esquire, Robt. Leeze, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Thomas Strangways, Esquire, Alexander Heron, elders.

Denton: No minister; William Booth, Robert Stansfield, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister; Peter Seddon, senior, an elder.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Pendleton, John Travis, elders.

4.—Mr. Arthure Francis returned his instrument affixed and subscribed.

person against whom you have received information of their being assistant to or corresponding with the enemy, and return their examinations, etc." (Council of State to Col. Birch and Duckenfield, Sept. 2nd, 1651, *State Papers*, 1651, p. 397.) The only other similar notice is under date Aug. 29th. "To write Col. Birch to send for Mr. Harrison, the minister, and examine him concerning his correspondence with Charles Stewart, or any other, and send the examination to council." This latter notice shows that there were separate investigations going on, still the total absence of any mention of Angier, Hollinworth, and Meeke is remarkable. At any rate the process was evidently only minatory. Harrison reappears in the meeting of November 2nd, and Hollinworth and Angier in December. The Act of Oblivion was not passed until the 24th Feb. 165¼ (C. J., vol. vii. p. 96). During these commotions, Manchester Church had been used (and defiled) as a prison for the "poor Scots."

5.—Mr. Francis is to mainteyne his thesis the seacond Tuesday in December next.

6.—Mr. Francis is to bee ordeyned at Stretford, the tenth day of December next. Mr. Meeke, Mr. Angier to give the exhortacon and to pray at the ordination; Mr. Harison, Mr. Walker to pray. Notice thereof to bee given to the severall congregations within this classe.

7.—An exercise to bee at Stretford, Wednesday, the 26th of November instant. Mr. Harison, Mr. Holland to preach.

8.—Mr. Francis is to preach the next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in December next

The moderator ended with prayer.

Mr. Arthur Francis was ordained accordingly, Dec. 10th, and received letters testimonial of such his ordination in the usuall forme, viz :—

Whereas Mr. Arthure Francis, aged about 25 years, . . . hath addressed himselfe . . . in the Church of Stretford, in the county of Lanc^r^, as by . . . and haveinge likewise taken the Nationall Coven^tt^, . . . & exhibited sufficient . . . exercise thereof in the Church of Stretford, in the countie aforesaid . . . sett our hands the tenth day of December, an^o^ dni 1651.

Apud Stretford, in Com. Lanc.

Signed by John Angier. John Walker.
John Harison. James Walton.
Wm. Meeke. Edm. Jones.

The 62 MEETEINGE at Manchester, December 9^o^, 1651.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begune with prayer.

2.—Mr. Francis preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Tho. Dickonson, Rowland Wright, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, Wm. Heginbotham, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Sam. Birch, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Lees, Hughe Tayler, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister: Robt. Hyde, Esquire, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, James Tayler, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Sam. Tayler, John Roson, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Peter Ashton, John Walker, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Tayler, minister, was presented by the elders of Gorton to officiate at Gorton aforesaid, and was accepted by this classe.

5.—Mr. Francis maintayned his thesis—*an Christus plane satisfecit pro peccatis electorum.* Affir. def., and was ordeyned at Stretford the tenth day of December *ut supra.*

6.—Mr. Ottiwell, beeinge an expectant, tendred himselfe to examination in reference to ordination, and was examined in logicke, phisicks, ethicks, & metaphisicks, and approved.

7.—Mr. Ottiwells is to preach the next classe.

8.—Agreed that an exercise bee observed at Newton, Wednesday, the one & twentieth day of January next. Mr. Angier, Mr. Hollinworth to preach.

Mr. Harrison moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in January next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The [illegible] 1654.

1.—Members [illegible] deputed for this meeting.

2.—Mr. [illegible]

3.—Mr. [illegible] order.

Manchester: Mr. [illegible] ministers; [illegible] elders.

Salford: Mr. Peake, minister; [illegible] Hegbarne, elders.

Ashton-under-Lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; John Sandford, Isaac Shove, elders.

Denton: Mr. [illegible] Gee, elders.

Stockport: Mr. [illegible]

Gorton: No minister; [illegible] Hulme, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; [illegible] elders.

Eccles: Mr. Walton, minister; Sam. Tyrer, John Travis, elders.

[illegible]: No minister; Law. Sandiford, Sam. Smithies, elders.

[illegible]: Mr. [illegible], minister.

[illegible]: Mr. Walker, minister; [illegible] elders.

[illegible]: [illegible] minister; [illegible] elders.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

7.—Mr. Harison, junior, to preach the next classe.
Mr. Harison, senior, moderator the next classe.
Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in Feb. next.
The moderator ended with prayer.
8.—Ordered that an instrum^{t} bee given to Mr. Josephe Ottiwell, to bee affixed on the Church doore at Chelford.

The 64 MEETEINGE at Manchester, February, 10th, an^{o} dni 165$\frac{1}{2}$.

1.—Members of severall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:
2.—Mr. Harison, junior, preached before the classe accordinge to order.
3.—Mr. Harison, senior, moderator, begunn with prayer.
Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; John Brownsword, an elder.
Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, Wm. Higinbothom, elders.
Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Lawrance Wright, Ottiwell Andrew, elders.
Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Wm. Booth, Robert Collier, elders.
Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Byron, Peter Ashton, elders.
Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Rowson, elders.
Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, & James Tayler, elders.
4.—Mr. Joseph Ottiwell was examined upon his question, mainteyned his thesis, and approved,
5.—Mr. Ottiwell brought in his Instrument affixed & subscribed.
6.—Mr. Ottiwell is to bee ordeyned at Manchester, upon Wednesday, the five & twentieth day of February instant.

The 63 MEETEINGE at Manchester, January 13°, 165½.

1.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begune with prayer.

3.—Mr. Ottiwell preached before the classe accordinge to order.

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Tho. Smith, Robt. Bradshaw, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, Wm. Heginbothame, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; John Sandiford, Isaac Dehowe, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robert Hyde, Esquire, John Gee, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Francis, minister.

Gorton: No minister; Tho. Strangways, Esquire, Robert Hulme, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; Peter Sergeant, James Smethurst, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Sam. Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Ouldham: No minister; Edw. Sandiford, Sam. Scolfield, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; John Wright, Thomas Berron, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; Tho. Rogers and Wm. Smith, elders.

4.—Mr. Ottiwell hath beene further examined accordinge to the rules for ordination, and approved.

5.—Mr. Ottiwell his thesis—*an sacramenta conferunt gratiam ex opere operato.* His negat. def.

6.—An exercise to bee at Blakeley on Tuesday, the 17th of February next. Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Jones, junior, to preach.

7.—Mr. Harison, junior, to preach the next classe.
Mr. Harison, senior, moderator the next classe.
Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in Feb. next.
The moderator ended with prayer.
8.—Ordered that an instrum^{t} bee given to Mr. Josephe Ottiwell, to bee affixed on the Church doore at Chelford.

The 64 MEETEINGE at Manchester, February, 10th, an^{o} dni 165$\frac{1}{2}$.

1.—Members of severall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:
2.—Mr. Harison, junior, preached before the classe accordinge to order.
3.—Mr. Harison, senior, moderator, begunn with prayer.
Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; John Brownsword, an elder.
Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, Wm. Higinbothom, elders.
Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Lawrance Wright, Ottiwell Andrew, elders.
Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Wm. Booth, Robert Collier, elders.
Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Byron, Peter Ashton, elders.
Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Rowson, elders.
Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, & James Tayler, elders.
4.—Mr. Joseph Ottiwell was examined upon his question, mainteyned his thesis, and approved,
5.—Mr. Ottiwell brought in his Instrument affixed & subscribed.
6.—Mr. Ottiwell is to bee ordeyned at Manchester, upon Wednesday, the five & twentieth day of February instant.

7.—Mr. Walker to preach, Mr. Heyricke to give the exhortation and to pray at the imposicon of hands. Mr. Hollinworth and Mr. Walton to pray.

8.—Mr. Zacharie Tayler brought in a certificate under the hands of divers ministers at his comeinge from Gropenhall when hee came into this classe.

Mr. Tayler to preach the next classe.

Mr. Heyricke moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in March next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

☞ According to order, on Feb. 25 was Mr. Joseph Ottawel ordained. Mr. Hollinworth begun with prayer, Mr. Walker preached, Mr. Walton prayed, Mr. Heyricke propounded the questions, prayed at the imposition of hands, and gave the exhortation. He further received at the same time testimonial of his ordination in the usuall forme, viz :—

Whereas Mr. Joseph Ottawell, aged about xxiiij. yeares, hath etc., in the Church of Chelford, in the countie of Chester . . . exercise thereof in the Church of Chelford, in the countie aforesaid, etc., set our hands, this Wednesday, the 25 of Feb., 165½.

Apud Manchester, in Com Lanc.

Rich. Heyrick.	John Walker.
Rich. Hollinworth.	Edm. Jones.
John Angier.	Wm. Meeke.
John Harison.	Arthur Francis.
James Walton.	Thomas Holland.

The 65 MEETEINGE at Manchester, March 9°, 165½.

1.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge :

2.—Mr. Tayler preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begun with prayer.

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Tho. Smith, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Jno. Sandiford, Robt Bardsley, elders.

Denton: No minister; Robt. Hyde, Esquire; William Booth, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; John Roson, John Travis, elders.

Eccles: No minister; Thomas Rogers, Richard Edge, elders.

Ouldham: No minister; John Smith, an elder.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, John Wright, an elder.

Prestwich: No minister, no elder.

Gorton: No minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esquire, Wm. Bertinshawe, elders.

Ringley: No minister, no elder.

Salford: No minister; Wm. Higinbotham, an elder.

4.—An exercise to bee at Flixton, Tuesday, the thertieth day of March instant.

Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Tayler to preach.

Mr. Angier to preach the next classe.

Mr. Walton moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in Aprill next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 66 MEETEINGE at Manchester, Aprill 13, 1652.

1.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

2.—Mr. Hollinworth preached before the classe by request.

3.—Mr. Walton, moderator, begune with prayer.

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr, Hollinworth, ministers; Rowland Wright, John Brownsword, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; William Booth, Robert Turner, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Robt. Leech, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Taylor, John Roson, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; John Wright, Peter Ashton, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, James Taylor, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, William Higinbotham, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Tayler, minister; Alexander Heron, Robert Hulme, elders.

4.—Delegates appointed to attend the provinciall assembly at Preston the first Tuesday in May next are:

Mr. Harrison Mr. Meeke Mr. Walker	ministers.	James Wroe Edmund Heywood Robt. Leech Samuel Tayler Alexander Heron Robert Turner	elders.

5.—An exercise to bee at Ringley, Wednesday, the 28th of Aprill instant, Mr. Walton and Mr. Francis to preach.

6.—Mr. Meeke is desired to speake to Mr. Jones, senior, that hee would not (in administringe the supper), walke contrary to the rules held by this assotiation accordinge to ordinance of parliament.

7.—Mr. Jones, junior, to preach the next classe.

8.—Mr. Tayler moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in May next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

9.—A summons sent out, to the end Edward Tetlowe of Haughton, and William Birch of Redish, should appeare before this classe the seacond Tuesday in May next.

The 67th MEETEINGE at Manchester, May 11°, 1652.

1.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

2.—Mr. Jones, junior, preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Mr. Tayler, moderator, begun with prayer.

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; Thomas Smith, Robt. Bradshaw, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, Wm. Heginbotham, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robert Ashton, Esqre, Robt. Lees, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esquire, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; Tho. Rogers, & Tho. Edge, elders.

Newton: No minister; John Wright, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Sam. Pendleton, Sam. Tayler, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; Adam Gaskell, James Wroe, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Tayler, minister; Tho. Strangways, Esquire, Samuel Birch, elders.

4.—Mr. Harison, in the name of the delegats appointed for the provinciall assemblie, gave an account what they did there, viz:—That they mett in Preston Church & Mr. Gee preached, but in regard of the absence of sixe ruleinge elders the assembly was adjourned till the first Tuesday, which is the fifth day of October next, and the provinciall still to bee kept at Preston.

5.—Mr. Alexander Maskall brought in a testimoniall of being Batchelor in arts, in Sydney Colledge, in Cambridge, as also a certificate under the hands of severall ministers of his liffe & conversacon, and of his abilities in the ministrie.

6.—Mr. Maskall brought in a certificate under the hands of

severall of the inhabitants of the parish of Sheereburne of his lawfull and faire call thither.

7.—Mr. Alexander Maskall examined in Hebrewe, Greeke, Philosophie, and Logicks, in Ethics, Physicks, and metaphisicks, and approved

8.—Mr. Maskall question, *an bona opera sint meritoria vitae alternae.* Neg, def.

9.—An instrum^{tt} to bee given to Mr. Maskall, to bee affixed on the Churche doore at Sheereburne.

10.—Mr. Maskall to bee ordeyned at Manchester, Wednesday, the 9th day of June next. Mr. Heyricke & Mr. Rathband, or Mr. Meeke to preach.

Mr. Tayler and Mr. Harison to pray, Mr. Angier to give the exhortacon.

11.—Mr. Rathband is by Mr. Meeke & Robt. Bradshaw to bee spoken to, & desired to come into the classis the next meeteinge, & to preach that day before the classis, or to pray the next day at the ordination of Mr. Alex. Maskall, if hee refuse to preach, Mr. Meeke is to preach before the classis.

12.—It is ordered that the classis sermon be deferred to the next day, and that is to bee kept as a fast not onely for the ordination but also in behalfe of Liverpoole w^{ch} is visited with the plague and pestelence, Mr. Heyricke & Mr. Rathband, or Mr. Meeke to preach, and those to pray w^{ch} are formerly appointed at the ordination.

Mr. Taylor moderator the next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The next classe is to bee the 2^{d} Tuesday in June next.

The 68 MEETEINGE at Manchester, the 8^{o} of June, 1652.

1.—Mr. Francis preached before the classe upon request.

2.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

3.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begun with prayer.

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Raphe Bridoake, Robert Bradshaw, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, William Higinbothom, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esquire, William Booth, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Ottiwell Andrew, Robt. Leech, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, an elder.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; Thomas Filds, William Smith, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Samuel Birch, Wm. Birtinshawe, elders.

4.—Mr. Maskall hath beene examined in Divinity & Cronologie of scripture, and approved.

5.—Mr. Meeke & Robt. Bradshawe are further requested to speake to Mr. Rathband, & to desire him to preach the next classe.

6.—Mr. Maskall mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an bona opera sint meritoria vitæ æternæ*, and hee was approved.

7.—Mr. Maskall to bee ordeyned at Manchester, the 9th day of June instant. Mr. Meeke to preach, Mr. Hollinworth & Mr. Walton to pray, Mr. Angier to give the exhortation & to pray at the imposicon of hands.

8.—Agreed that a fast shall bee at Stretford, the 23rd day of June instant. Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Holland to preach.

Mr. Angier moderator the next classe.

The next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in July next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

Accordingly, June the 9th was ordination had of the said Mr. Alexander Maskall at the Church of Manchester, whose testimonial was given him in the usuall forme:

Whereas Mr. Alexander Maskall, aged about xxiiii. yeares,

hath, etc. . . . in the Church of Sheerburne, in the county of Yorke, as, etc. . . . exercise thereof in the Church of Shereburne, in the county aforesaid, . . . set our hands this Wednesday, the 9th day of June, 1652.

Apud Manchester, in Com. Lanc.

Richard Hollinworth	Wm. Meeke
John Angier	Edmund Jones
James Walton	Arthur Francis

The 69 MEETEINGE at Manchester, July 13, an° dni 1652.

1.—Mr. Rathband preached before the classe upon request.

2.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

3.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begun with prayer.

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; Tho. Dickonson, Mr. Smith, Robt. Bradshaw, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Turner, & Robt. Collier, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esquire, Isaac Dehow, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Walton, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Roson, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; William Smith, Thomas Filds, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; no elder.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; John Wright, Thomas Baron, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Samuel Birch, Robt. Hulme, elders.

4.—An account to bee given what hath bin done in reference to those ruleinge elders that have withdrawne from acteinge as formerly.

5.—A sumons to bee sent out to require Raphe Grundie of Houghton, *et uxor ejus*, and John Tayler of Denton, to appeare

before the classis at Manchester, upon Tuesday, the tenth day of August next.

Mr. Heyricke moderator the next classe.

Mr. Holland to preach the next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in August next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

A COPPIE OF A WARRANT or summons to bee sent out upon occasion :

July *ut supra*, 1652.

These are to require you, whose names are hereunto subscribed, to appeare before us at Manchester, the first classis in the countie palatine of Lancaster, upon beinge the day of bye tenn of the clocke in the aforenoone of the same day, then and there to make answeare to such things as shall be objected against you.

The 7o MEETEINGE at Manchester, August the 10th, 1652.

Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge :

1.—Mr. Holland preached before the classe accordinge to order.

Manchester : Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers ; Richard Mere, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Salford : Mr. Meeke, minister ; Philipe Stampe, Wm. Heginbotham, elders.

Denton : Mr. Angier, minister ; John Gee, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne : Mr. Harison, minister ; Robt. Ashton, Esq., Robert Lees, elders.

Blakley : No minister ; Samuel Pendleton, John Travis, elders.

Eccles : Mr. Jones, junior, minister ; Richard Edge, Thomas Edge, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister.

Gorton: No minister; Sam. Birche, Robert Hulme, elders.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begune with prayer.

3.—Thomas Walker, one of the elders of Ashton-under-lyne, hath withdrawne from acteinge with the eldership as formerly.

4.—Mr. Angier is desired to give a further account of his business the next classe.

Mr. Harrison to preach the next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in September next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 71 MEETEINGE at Manchester, 14 September, 1652.

1.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

2.—Mr. Walker preached before the classe by Master Harison's procurement.

3.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begune with prayer.

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Thomas Smith, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, Wm. Heginbotham, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; William Booth, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; John Sandford, Robt. Bardsley, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; Peter Sergeant, James Wroe, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esquire, Samuel Birch, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, junior, minister; William Smith, Thomas Fylds, elders.

Ouldham: No minister; John Travis, John Scoles, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Tayler, John Rowson, elders.

4.—Delegats appointed to attend the provinciall assembly at Preston the 1st Tuesday in October next are:

Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Harison, Mr. Walker, } ministers.

Mr. Peter Sergeant, Mr. William Booth, John Sandford, William Higinbotham, Peter Ashton, Robt. Hulme, } ruleinge elders.

5.—Ordered that before any minister in the classe goe away from his place, the classe shall send twoe ministers to the people there to see if competent provision can bee by them made for him.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in October next.

Mr. Hollinworth to preach the next classe.

6.—Mr. Heyricke moderator the next classe, and to continue soe three classical days togeather, w^{ch} same course is to bee houlden by all the ministers in the classe.

The 72 MEETEINGE at Manchester, October 12°, 1652.

1.—Mr. Rathband preached before the classe upon request.

2.—This classe adjornes it selfe till the seacond Tuesday in November next.

Mr. Hollinworth to preach the next classe.

Mr. Heyricke moderator the next classe.

The 73 MEETEINGE at Manchester, the 9° of November, 1652.

1.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

2.—Mr. Hollinworth preached before the classis according to order.

3.—Mr. Harrison, moderator, begun with prayer.

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Tho. Smith, Rowland Wright, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esquire, Isaac Dehowe, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Tho. Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; John Travis, Samuel Tayler, elders.

Gorton: The minister absent, sent his excuse; Alex. Heron, Samuel Birche, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esquire, Robert Stansfield, elders.

4.—A summons sent to require Richard Pendleton of Bradford to appeare before the classis at Manchester the seacond Tuesday in December next.

5.—A sumons sent forth to require Elizabeth Bardsley and Jane Heape, both of Ashton-under-lyne, to appeare before the classis at Manchester the Seacond Tuesday in December next.

6.—Mr. Angier to preach the next classis.

Mr. Heyricke moderator the next classis.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in December next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

A COPPIE OF A SUMONS.

Forasmuch as complainte hath beene made to this classe that you whose name (or names) are hereunder written have comitted the sin of——, and not given satisfaccon for the same, these are

therefore to require you to appeare before this classe the 2º Tuesday in ——— next, to give an account in the premisses.

To ———

The 74 MEETEINGE at Manchester, December 14th, 1652.

1.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge :

2.—Master Angier preached before the classe accordinge to order.

Manchester : Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers ; Tho. Dickonson, Raphe Bridoake, elders.

Salford : Mr. Meeke, minister ; Phillipe Stampe, William Heginbotham, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne : Mr. Harrison, minister ; Edm. Heywood, Hughe Tayler, elders.

Denton : Mr. Angier, minister ; Robt. Hyde, Esquire, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton : Mr. Tayler, minister ; Thomas Strangwayes, Esquire, Samuel Birche, elders.

Newton : No minister ; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley : No minister ; Samuel Taylor, Samuel Pendleton, elders.

4.—Richard Pendleton of Bradford appeared before this classe, and there did declare himselfe to bee very sorrowfull for what hee (at any time) had spoken against Ann, the widow of John Booth of Blakeley.

5.—It is ordred that the eldershipe of Ashton-under-lyne shall give an account concerneing the state of Elizabeth Bardsley's business the next classe.

6.—It is ordred that Mr. Heyricke and Mr. Hollinworth shall goe to Mr. Rathband to desire him to come in unto the classis, or else to shew cause wherefore hee doth forbeare.

7.—It is ordred that the busines concerneinge Ringley shalbee

handled the next classe, and that Peter Ashton give Mr. Holland notice to appeare the next classis.

8.—It is ordred that Mr. Hollinworth speake to Mr. Woolmer to desire his presence at the next classe.

9.—It is ordred that Mr. Angier and Mr. Hyde speake to Mr. Leadsom of Didsbury concerneinge his presence at the classis, & erectinge of the governm^{tt}, and to make report the next classis.

10.—It is ordred that Mr. Meeke and Capt. Samuel Birche of Openshawe shall peruse the register, and gather up the sume of Mr. Laks [Lake's] charge.

11.—It is ordred that Mr. Walker and Peter Ashton give notice to Mr. Hall of Shawe Chappell to appeare the next classis.

12.—Hugh Taylor and Edmund Heywood summoned Elizabeth Bardsley to appeare before the classis, and shee refused to come in.

13.—It is ordred that Mr. Tho. Smith give an account what hee hath done in reference to Mr. Valentyns comeinge to conferre with Mr. Heyricke and Mr. Hollinworth.

14.—Mr. Smith presented himselfe to this classe, being desired by the elders at Blakeley, and was approved to preach as an expectant in order to ordination.

Master Heyricke to preach the next classe.

Mr. Angier moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in January next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 75 MEETEINGE at Manchester, 11^{o} January, 165$\frac{8}{9}$.

1.—Mr. Heyricke preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begunne with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed to this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Edw. Johnson, Rich. Meare, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robert Turner, Robert Collier, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harrison, minister; Robert Lees, Lawrance Wright, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, William Heginbotham, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Tayler excused and approved; Samuel Birch, William Birtinshawe, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Smith, minister; John Travis, Samuel Tayler, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Edm. Jones, minister; Richard Edge, Thomas Edge, elders.

4.—Mr. Angier gave an account concerneing Mr. Leadsom, who promised future appearance, excuseing the present by some necessary business.

5.—Mr. Walker returned an account concerneing Mr. Hall of Shaw Chappell, that hee gave no possitive answeare concerneing his appearance before the classis.

6.—Mr. Harrison brought in the case of Elizabeth Bardsley, George Marland alias Eyres, and Ann Chadwick, all of Ashton-under-lyne, in order to excommunication.[1]

7.—Ordred that sumons bee sent to appeare the next classis.

[1] "But for the power of ordinances one more [instance] shall only be set down here, and that was of one in Ashton parish that was for some gross offence, some uncleanness I am sure, proceeded against and excommunicated by the classis. He remained hardened and went away into Ireland and was there some time, and yet God so owned his ordinance that he could never be quiet till he came back again to Ashton parish and submitted there to open acknowledgment of his offence." (Newcome *Autob.*, p. 95.)

8.—Ordred that notice bee given to some of the elders of Ouldham to bee present at the next classis in reference to Master Laks busines.

9.—Ordred that the exercise bee renued to begine at Manchester the seacond day in February; Mr. Angier and Mr. Harison to preach.

10.—Ordred that Mr. Smith preach the next classis.

11.—Mr. Rathband, accordinge to the desire of the classis, appeared this day, declareinge his willingnes to act with the classe.

Ordred that Mr. Angier bee moderator next classis, which is to bee the seacond Tuesday in February next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The next provinciall meeteing to bee at Preston the seacond Tuesday in May next.

The 76 MEETEINGE at Manchester, Febr. 8, 165$\frac{3}{4}$.

1.—Mr. Smith preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begune with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge.

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Robt. Bradshaw, Rowland Wright, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; William Heginbothom, an elder; Mr. Stampe absent.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Stansfield, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Bardsley, Robt. Leech, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker excused, approved; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Smith, minister; John Travis, Samuel Tayler, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Fylds, William Smith, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Taylor, minister; Samuel Birch, Robt. Hulme, elders.

4.—Mr. Hollinworth desired his excuse concerneing speakeing to Mr. Woolmer might bee continued to the next classe.

5.—George Marland alias Eyres appeared before the classe and did confesse his comitinge the foule and scandalouse sinn of adultery & fornication with Ann Chadwicke, to whom since hee is married, pretending thereby to excuse her appearance.

6.—Ordred by this classis that the eldershipe of Ashton-under-lyne shall proceed to the excommunication of George Marland alias Eyres and Ann his wiffe.

7.—Ordred that an exercise shall bee houlden at Ashton-under-lyne upon Wednesday, the 23 Feb. instant, in order to the busines of the excommunicacon of the parties before mentioned.

8.—Elizabeth Bardsley appeared not this classis according to former summons.

9.—Mr. Richard Bowker to preach the next classe.

10.—Mr. Angier moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in March next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 77 MEETEINGE at Manchester, March 8°, 165$\frac{8}{9}$.

1.—Mr. Samson, an expectant for ordination, preached before the classe instead of Mr. Bowker.

2.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Robt. Bradshawe, Thomas Smith, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipe Stampe, Wm. Higinbothom, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robert Collier, Robert Stansfield, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esq., Edmund Heywood, elders.

Newton: The minister excused because of sicknes; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Samuel Smith, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Tayler, minister; Samuel Birche, Alexander Heron, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Rogers, Wm. Smith, elders.

4.—Mr. John Sampson presented himselfe to ordination, Batchelor in Arts of Trinitie Colledge in Cambridge, brought in a testimoniall under severall ministers hands of his liffe, learneinge, and godlynes.

5.—As also another testimoniall from severall the inhabitants of Racliffe, in the countie of Yorke, of his lawfull and faire call thither.

6.—Mr. Sampson hath beene examined in the languages, in Greeke, Logicke, Philosophie, Ethicks, Phisicks, and Metaphisicks, Ecclesiasticall historie, & in divinitie, and approved; had an instrument to bee affixed given him.

7.—Mr. Sampsons Thesis—*an datur perfectio moralis in hac vita.* Neg.

8.—Mr. Edmund Jones did shewe his call to the church at Eccles before this classis, w^{ch} was approved.

9.—Mr. John Sampson to bee ordeyned at Manchester upon Wednesday, the eleventh day of May next. Mr. Tayler to preach; Mr. Hollinworth to give the exhortation. Mr. Worsley to preach the next classe.

10.—Ordred that an exercise bee upon Wednesday, Aprill 6, 1653, at Prestwich. Mr. Heyricke and Mr. Hollinworth to preache.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator next classe.
The moderator ended with prayer.
Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in Aprill next.

APRIL 12°, 1653.

1.—Mr. Raphe Worsley preached this day accordinge to order.

2.—This classe is adjorned untill the 26 of Aprill instant.[1]

3.—Mr. Jones to preach the next classe.

[1] See the minutes for November following. This time is described by Newcome as "the darkest time" (*Autob.*, 46). This must be understood as a CLERICAL lament. Since the battle of Worcester, the classis had transacted little more than ordinations, and such continued to be the case. If the existing *MS.* of the Bury minutes is not imperfect, the Bury classis experienced still greater relapse. The dates of meetings during this period, as there preserved, are these: July, September, 1652; July, August, October, November, 1653—that is, instead of the usual monthly meeting routine, only six meetings during a period of seventeen months. The Wirksworth minutes exhibit no such violent interruption, and it is probable the Bury minutes have not been properly preserved. All the same, it is certain that the growing spirit of toleration was the deathblow to this Commonwealth Presbyterianism. The first direct enactment for "indulgence to some who differ in doctrine, worship, or discipline" (leaving out the so-called Toleration Act of 1650, cap. 27, which was simply a repeal of the penal statutes of Elizabeth and James enforcing attendance on common prayer), occurs in 1656 as clause xi. of the "humble petition and advice." But the proposal had received the attention of Parliament much earlier. At the very moment when the army "pulled up the Rump" (this same month, April, 1653), the Commons were in debate of such proposals. (See C. J., vii. 258.) Friday, 11th February, 165⅔. On that day 13 proposals were brought into the House:

(9) That . . . it is desired that no person bee required to receive the sacraments further than their light shall lead them unto.

(12) That all persons dissenting to the doctrine and way of worship owned by the State . . . be required to meet in places publicly known, and to give notice to some magistrate of such their place of ordinary meeting.

The proposals were two generations too soon.

The 78 MEETEINGE at Manchester, 26 April, an° Dni 1653.

1.—Mr. Ely Bentley, an expectant for ordination, preached before the classe instead of Mr. Jones.

2.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Raphe Briddocke, Thomas Smith, elders.

Salford: No minister; Phillippe Stampe, William Higinbothom, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Lees, Hughe Tayler, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esquire, Wm. Booth, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; no elder.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Filds, Thomas Rogers, elders.

Newton: No minister; no elder.

Gorton: No minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esquire; Samuell Birch, elders.

4.—Mr. Raphe Worsley presented himselfe to ordinacon, Batchelor in arts of Pembrooke Hall in Cambridge; brought in a testimonial of his faire call to Chelford in Cheshire; had an instrum^tt^ given him to bee affixed; his question—*an datur peccatum sua natura veniale.*

Mr. Worsley hath been examined in the languages—in Hebrewe, Greeke, Logicke, Philosophie, Ethics, Phisicks, in Metaphisicks, in Divinity, ecclesiasticall history, & cronologie, and approved.

5.—Mr. William Hilton presented himselfe to ordination, brought in a testimoniall of his liffe and conversacon, hath beene examined in the languages, but not approved.

6.—Mr. Ely Bently presented himselfe to ordination, Batchelor in Arts of Trinity Colledge in Cambridge, hath beene examined

in the languages for ordination as aforesaid, had an instrument given him to be affixed; his question—*an bona opera sint necessaria ad salutem.*

7.—Delegates appointed to attend the provinciall assemblie at Wigan, the seacond Tuesday in May next, are:

Mr. Angier Mr. Harison Mr. Jones	ministers.	Tho. Strangwayes, Esq. Capt. Sam. Birche James Lees Richard Edge Thomas Rogers Laurance Wright	elders.

8.—Mr. Sampson, Mr. Bentley, & Mr. Worsley to bee ordeyned at Manchester the fifteenth day of June next.

9.—Mr. Hollinworth to preach, Mr. Harison to give the exhortation.

10.—A *bene decessit* granted by this classe to Mr. Tayler.

11.—Agreed that upon the request of the minister and severall the inhabitants of the parish of Ouldham a monethly exercise shall bee kept at Ouldham every last Wednesday in the moneth.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in May next.

Mr. Jones to preach the next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator the next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

MAY 10, 1653.

This day the classis is adjorned untill the seacond Tuesday in June next.

The 79th MEETEINGE at Manchester, June 14, 1653.

1.—Mr. Jones preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Richard Meare, Thomas Smith, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harrison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esquire, Robt. Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Turner, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, William Higinbothom, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Rogers, an elder.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Tayler, Samuel Pendleton, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Samuel Birch, William Birtenshawe, elders.

4.—Mr. Samson returned his instrument affixed and subscribed; mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an datur perfectio moralis in hac vita*, and approved.

5.—The classis is unsatisfied concerneinge Mr. Lake his sitinge amongst them, untill hee shall give satisfaction concerneinge the things dependinge betweene the classis and him; w^ch^ satisfaction the classis is readie to receive soe soone as hee shall please to give it.

6.—Mr. Raphe Worsley returned his instrument affixed and subscribed; mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an datur peccatum sua natura veniale*, and approved.

7.—Mr. Eli Benteley mainteind a dispute on this question—*an bona opera sint necessaria ad salutem*, and approved.

8.—The provinciall did meete, chose a new moderator, and ordred this classe to provide a sermon for the next provinciall assembly.

9.—Next PROVINCIALL ASSEMBLY to bee at Wigan the seacond Tuesday of November next.

Mr. Samson, Mr. Bentley, and Mr. Worsley were ordeyned at Manchester, Wednesday, the 15° June, 1653. Mr. Hollinworth did preach; Mr. Harison did give the exhortation; Mr. Harison, Mr. Rathband, Mr. Meeke did pray; Mr. Hollinworthe, Mr. Angier, and Mr. Harison prayed at the imposition of hands.

10.—Mr. Wm. Stapleton presented himselfe to ordination, student of St. John's Colledge, Cambridge, hath beene examined in the languages—in Hebrew, Greeke, Logicke, Philosophie, Ethicks, Phisicks, and Metaphisicks, and so farr approved of; brought in twoe testimonialls—one of his faire call to Snaith in the countie of Yorke, an other testimoniall of his holy liffe and good conversacon; had an instrument to bee affixed delivred him; his question—*an sancti sint invocandi.* Neg. def.

11.—Mr. Stapleton to preach before the classe the seacond Tuesday in August next.

12.—Mr. Stapleton to bee ordeyned the 10th day of August next.

Mr. Holland to preach the next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in July next.

13.—It is ordred that the next exercise bee holden at Gorton.

The moderator ended with prayer.

June 15th: Ordination was held in the Parish Church of Manchester of Mr. Sampson, Mr. Bentley, & Mr. Worsley, who had testimonials of their ordination in the accustomed manner, viz.:

Whereas: Mr. John Samson, aged about 28, hath addressed . . . in the Church of Rakcliffe, in the county of Yorke, as by etc. . . . exhibited sufficient, etc. . . . exercise thereof in the Church of Rakcliffe, in the county aforesd . . . set our hands this 15 day of June, 1653.

Apud Manchester, in com. Lanc.

Whereas: Mr. Eli Bentley, aged about 23, hath . . . in the

Church of Hallifax, in the county of Yorke, as etc. . . . exercise thereof in the Church of Hallifax, in the countie aforesaid, etc. . . . set our hands this 15° June, an° Dni 1653.

Apud Manchester, in com. Lanc.

Whereas: Mr. Raphe Worsley, aged 22 yeares, hath . . . in the Church of Chelford, in the county of Chester, as etc. . . . exercise thereof in the Church of Chelford, in the county aforesaid, etc. . . . set our hands this 15° June, an° Dni 1653.

Apud Manchester, in com. Lanc.

All which were subscribed by

Richard Hollinworth.	Nathaniel Rathband.
John Angier.	William Meeke.
John Harison.	Edmund Jones.

The 8o MEETEINGE at Manchester, 12 July, 1653.

1.—Mr. Hall preached before the classe instead of Mr. Holland.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, instead of Mr. Hollinworth, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Tho. Smith, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Robert Bardsley, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; William Booth, Robt. Collier, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; William Heginbotham, an elder.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: No minister; no elder.

Blakeley: Mr. Smith, expectant.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, expectant; Thomas Strangwayes, Esqr., Sam. Birch, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Holland (though ordred by the last classis to preach at this classis) failed, without giveinge any account; no elder from Ringley.

4.—Mr. Daniel Smith presented himselfe to ordination; hath beene examined in the languages—in Greeke, Logicke, Philosophie, Ethicks, Phisicks, and Metaphysicks, & approved; had an instrum^tt^ given him to bee affixed.

5.—Mr. Nathaniel Brownesword presented himselfe to ordination; hath beene examined in the languages—in Greeke, Logicke, Philosophie, Ethicks, Phisicks, & Metaphisicks, & approved; had an instrument given him to bee affixed.

6.—Mr. Rich. Bowker presented himself to ordination; hath been examined in the languages—in Greeke, Logicke, Philosophie, Ethics, Phisicks, & Metaphisicks, & approved; had an instrum^tt^ given him to bee affixed.

7.—Mr. Smith, his question—*an ecclesia sit summus Judex de Controversiis fidei.* Neg. def.

8.—Mr. Brownesword his question—*an sensus scripturæ sit multiplex.* Neg. def.

9.—Mr. Bowker, his question—*an baptismus sit necessarius ad salutem.* Neg. def.

10.—Mr. Bowker, Mr. Smith, Mr. Brownsword to bee ordeynd the 10 August next. Mr. Harison to preach; Mr. Angier to give the exhortacon.

11.—Upon the desire of the people at Gorton, Mr. Robert Seddon is approved as an expectant to officiate at the said congregation.

An admonicon to bee sent by Mr. Walker to Mr. Holland concerneinge his present default, and that hee bee at the next classis to give account of it.

Next classis to bee the seacond Tuesday in August next.

Mr. Wm. Stapleton to preach the next classe.
Mr. Harrison moderator the next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 81 MEETEINGE at Manchester, August 9th, 1653.

1.—Mr. Stapleton preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begune with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Raphe Bridocke, Thomas Smith, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, Wim. Higinbotham, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Captt Sandford, Laurance Wright, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esqr, Peter Ashton, eldrs.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, eldrs.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Edge, Thomas Filds, eldrs.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister; no elder there.

Blakeley: Mr. Smith, minister; Samuel Pendleton, John Travis, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Tho. Strangwayes, Samuel Birch, elders.

Prestwich: Minister absent; Peter Sergeant, James Wroe, elders.

Ouldham: No minister; John Travis, John Scoales, elders.

4.—Mr. Wm. Stapleton returned his instrum^tt affixed & subscribed, was examined in Divinity, cronologie, & ecclesiasticall histories, mainteined a dispute on this question—*an sancti sint invocandi*, and approved.

5.—Mr. Smith, Batchelor of Arts, returned his instrum^tt affixed and subscribed, examined in Divinity, cronologie, and ecclesiasticall histories, brought in a testimoniall of his faire call to Blakeley, in the county of Lancaster; an other of his good liffe and conversacon, maintein'd a dispute on this question—*an ecclesia sit summus Judex de Controversiis fidei*, & approved.

6.—Mr. Brownesword, Batchelor of Arts, returned his instrum^tt affixed & subscribed; was examined in Divinity, cronologie, and ecclesiasticall historie, brought in a testimoniall of his faire call to Hickleton, in the county of Yorke; an other of his good liffe and conversation; mantein'd a dispute on this question—*an sensus scripturæ sit multiplex*, and approved.

7.—Mr. Bowker, Batchelor of Arts, returned his instrum^tt affixed & subscribed; was examined in Divinity, Cronologie, & ecclesiasticall historie; brought in a testimoniall of his faire call to Thorneton, in the county of Chester; an other of his good liffe and conversacon; maintein'd a dispute on this question—*an baptismus sit necessarius ad salutem*, and approved.

☞ The day after being August the 10^th^, there was solemne ordination made in the parish church of Manchester of Mr. Booker, Mr. Smith, Mr. Stapleton, & Mr. Brownesword, whose letters testimonial of their ordination were given them in the usual form, viz.:

Whereas Mr. Rich. Bowker, aged about xxiiij years, hath addressed . . . in the Church of Thornton, in the county of Chester, as by . . . exercise thereof, in the Church of Thornton, in the county afores^d . . . set our hands this 10^th^ day of August, 1653.

Whereas Mr. Daniel Smith, aged about 25 yeares, hath addressed . . . in the Church of Blakeley, in the countie of Lancaster, as by . . . exercise thereof, in the Church of Blakeley,

in the county aforesd . . . . set our hands this 10th day of August, anº Dni 1653.

Whereas Mr. Wm. Stapleton hath addressed . . . in the Church of Snaith, in the county of Yorke, as by . . . exercise thereof, in the Church of Snaith, in the county of Yorke, as by . . . exercise thereof, in the Church of Snaith, in the county aforesd, set our hands this 10th day of August, anº Dni 1653.

Whereas: Mr. Nathaniel Brownesword, aged about xxiiij yeares, hath addressed . . . in the Church of Hickleton, in the county of Yorke, as by . . . exercise thereof, in the Church of Hickleton, in the county aforesaid . . . set our hands this 10th day of August, anº Dni 1653.

All wch were alike subscribed by

Rich. Heyricke,
Rich. Hollinworth,
John Harison,
John Angier.
Wm. Meeke,
John, Walker, &
Edmund Jones.

Mr. Seddon to preach the next classe.
Mr. Harrison moderator the next classe.
Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in September next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 82 MEETEINGE at Manchester, September 13º, 1653.

1.—Mr. Seddon preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Robt. Bradshaw, elder, the other sicke.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Lees, Hughe Tayler, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; William Booth, Robert Stansfield, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders, absent; excused.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; William Heginbotham, elder; Phillip Stampe, absent; excused.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Tho. Strangwayes, Esq., Samuel Birch, elders.

Prestwich: Minister absent, his excuse approved; Peter Sergeant, elder.

Eccles: Mr. Jones sicke, excused; no elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Smith from home, excused; Samuel Tayler, elder.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister; no elder.

Ouldham: No minister; John Smith, John Worrall, elders.

4.—Mr. George Scoles, aged about 23, presented himselfe to ordination; brought in a testimoniall of his faire call to Marsden, in the county of Yorke.

5.—Order'd that every particuler elder^{pp} within the classis come provided ag^{tt} the next classis to give account of their meeteings & other things to be inquired of, especially of these three things:

First. Whether they keepe up their constant meeteings.

Seacondly. Whether they register their most material acts.

Thirdly. Whether they have given or doe give in their delegations to the classis under their ministers hand, and that the classis procede in this worke till all the elder^{pp} bee gone over.

Mr. George Scoles to preach the next classis.

Mr. Rathband moderator next classis.

Next classis to bee the seacond Tuesday in October next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 83 MEETINGE at Manchester, October 11°, 1653.

1.—Mr. Scoales preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldership deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Thomas Smith, Robt. Bradshaw, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Leech, Hughe Tayler, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Wm. Booth, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Philipe Stampe, Wim. Higinbotham, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Smith, minister; Samuel Tayler, Samuel Pendleton, elders.

Ouldham: No minister; John Lees, James Lees, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Peter Ashton, elder.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister; no elder.

Prestwich: Mr. Rathband absent, excused; no elder.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Alexander Heron, Samuel Birche, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Filds, William Smith, elders.

4.—Mr. Scoles hath beene examined in Logicke, Philosophie, Ethicks, Phisicks, Metaphisicks, and in Greeke, but not approved; his question—*an detur liberum arbitrium in spiritualibus*. Neg. def.

5.—Delegated for the provinciall assembly at Wigan, the 8th day of November next:

Mr. Hollinworth (to preach) Mr. Meeke & Mr. Walker	ministers.	Capt. Ashton, Esq., Robt. Hyde, Esq., Mr. Meare, Mr. Stampe, Mr. Higinbothom, Mr. Sergeant,	elders.

6.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Gorton, Wednesday, the 16th day of November next. Mr. Angier, Mr. Walker, to preach.

Ordred that the busines concerneinge the severall elderpps belonging to this classe be proceeded in the next classe.

Mr. Jackson to preach the next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in November next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

NOVEMBER, 1653, the 84 MEETEINGE.

1.—Mr. Jackson preached before the classis accordinge to order.

2.—This day the classis is adjorned untill the seacond Tuesday in December next.

3.—Mr. Richard Bowker to preach the next classis.

4.—Mr. Hollinworth moderator the next classis.

The 84 MEETEINGE at Manchester, December 13°, 1653.

1.—Mr. Bowker preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpps deputed for this meetinge:

Manchester: No minister; Richard Meare, Thomas Smith, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Sandiford, Edmund Heywood, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; William Booth, Robert Collier, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; William Higinbotham, an elder; the other excused.

Blakeley: No minister; John Travis, Samuel Tayler, elders.
Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Richard Edge, Thomas Edge, elders.
Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.
Ouldham: No minister; no elder.
Prestwich: No minister; no elder.
Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Tho. Strangwayes, Esq., Samuel Birch, elders.
Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister; no elder.

4.—An account was given by Mr. Meeke of the provinciall assemblie held at Wigan, the eight day of November last.

5.—Next PROVINTIALL ASSEMBLIE to bee at Boulton, the first Tuesday of May next.

6.—Mr. Scoles hath beene examined in Divinitie, but neither in that nor in humane learneinge gave any competent satisfaccon; was advised for the present to forbeare preachinge, and to apply himselfe diligently to his private studies.

7.—A day of thanksgiveinge to bee at Manchester, the 4th day of December instant, for the great mercy of God in removeinge that generall sicknes wherewith the towne was afflicted. Mr. Heyricke & Mr. Hollinworth to preach.

Mr. Holland to preach the next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth, moderator.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in January next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 85 MEETEINGE at Manchester, January 10th, 165$\frac{3}{4}$.

1.—Mr. Walker preached before the classe in Mr. Hollands absence.

2.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Tho. Dickonson, Raphe Briddoake, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Isaac Dehowe, Robert Lees, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robert Hyde, Esq., John Gee, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipe Stampe, Wim. Higinbothom, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Samuel Birch, Alexander Heron, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, James Tayler, elders.

Ouldham: No minister; no elders.

Ringley: No minister; no elders.

Next provinciall meeteing to bee at Bolton the first Tuesday in May next.

Ordred that an exercise bee at Denton upon Wednesday the eight day of Feb. next; Mr. Harison, Mr. Rathband, to preach.

Mr. Meeke to preach the next classe.

Mr. Angier moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in February next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

Mr. Leadsome and Mr. Nuttall sent unto to appeare the next classe.

The 86 MEETEINGE at Manchester, February 14°, 165$\frac{4}{5}$.

1.—Mr. Meeke preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elder^{pps} deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: No minister; Robert Bradshaw, an elder.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robert Ashton, Esq., Robt. Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Wm. Booth, Robert Turner, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipe Stampe, an elder.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Tho. Strangwayes, Esq., Samuel Birch, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Smith, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Ouldham: No minister; Francis Clegg, Josephe Hallowes, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; no elders.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister; Peter Ashton, senior, an elder.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Wm. Smith, an elder.

4.—Agreed that a fast bee kept at Ringley upon Wednesday, the first day of March next. Mr. Angier & Mr. Rathband to preach.

5.—George Marland, of Ashton-under-lyne, appeared, manifestinge great sorrow for his sines of adultary & fornication; the elderPP certifieing with him & his wife of theire publicke and satisfactory acknowledgment, it is ordred by the classis that the sentence of excommunicacon bee reversed, and publication thereof made by the said eldershipe.

6.—Mr. Nuttall appeared, gave an account of his being minister, and officiateing at Stretford, but not probable to continue above one day longer.

7.—Ordred that a summons bee sent to Mr. Leadsome at Didsbury.

8.—Mr. Bradshawe, of Ellenbroocke, desired to bee present at Manchester the next classis.

Mr. Nuttal to preach the next classis.

Mr. Angier moderator the next classis.

Next classis to bee the second Tuesday in March next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 87 MEETEINGE at Manchester, March the 14°, 165¾.

1.—Mr. Nuttall preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Mr. Meare, Robert Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Sandiford, Edmund Heawood, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Peter Ashton, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipe Stampe, Wm. Higinbothom, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Thomas Strangewayes, Esq., Samuel Birch, elders.

Eccles: No minister; Thomas Filds, an elder.

Blakeley: Mr. Smith, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis. elders.

4.—A request from the inhabitants within the congregacon of Gorton was tendred to the classe, that Mr. Robert Seddon, who hath officiated amongst them as an expectant, might bee ordayned to bee their minister.

5.—Upon report to the classis that Mr. Scoales continued to officiate in the ministry and to baptize, it is ordred that a letter bee sent to Mr. Luke Firth and John Marsden, that hee was not ordnayned by this classis, but was desired (being found insufficient) to forbeare publique officiateinge and to apply himselfe to his private studies; w^ch^ was sent accordingly.

6.—A testimoniall was given to Mr. Nathaniel Rathband in these words:

These may certifie whomsoever it may concerne, that Mr. Nathaniel Rathband is very well knowne to us to bee orthodox in doctrine, painfull in his ministeriall function, and of pious and

blameles conversation, and hath with a good approbacon for these twoe yeares last past exercised his ministry at Prestwich within this classe.[1]

Agreed that an exercise bee at Ashton-under-lyne, Mr. Hollinworth, & Mr. Meeke to preach.

Ordred that a sumons bee sent out for Raphe Grundie of Haughton, and his wife, and for William Birch of Redish, to appeare the next classis.

Mr. Holland to preach the next classe.

Mr. Angier moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in Aprill next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 88 MEETEINGE at Manchester, 11° Aprill, 1654.

1.—Mr. Holland preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Angier, moderator, began with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: No minister; Robert Bradshawe, an elder.

[1] See appendix for Nathaniel Rathband. It would be interesting to know the import of this certificate. It may be a testimonial given on the prospect of removal. But it is not certain that Rathband was thinking of removing. His name occurs in these minutes up to December, 1655, and it is not until some time in 1656 that he is found at Keighley, in Yorkshire. This form of certificate was required by the ordinance of 20th March, 165$\frac{3}{4}$, appointing commissioners for the approbation of public preachers (*Scobell*, vol. ii. p. 280), and it would be interesting to know that this is a case in point, but it hardly seems likely.

Throughout the period covered by these minutes, it is evident that the Royalist party in Prestwich was stronger than the Puritan. Every Presbyterian nominee was made uncomfortable, and in the end the parish took back its old Royalist rector, Isaac Allen, without any such terms of capitulation as the classis had wished to impose. (See *postea*.) This certificate may have a reference to such disturbances as were continually arising in this parish.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipe Stampe, Wm. Higinbothom, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Robt. Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Stansfield, Robt. Collier, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Tho. Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Richard Edge, Tho. Edge, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister; Peter Seddon, senior, an elder.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, Adam Gaskell, elders.

4.—An exercise to bee at Ashton-under-lyne, Wednesday after the next classe, Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Meeke to preach.

5.—Delegated for the provinciall assembly at Boulton, the first Tuesday in May next:

Mr. Angier,
Mr. Harison,
Mr. Rathband,
} ministers.

Tho. Strangwayes, Esq.,
Peter Seddon, senior,
Thomas Filds,
James Wroe,
William Smith,
& an other from the elderpp at Prestwich whom they shall appoint, wch was Adam Gaskell,
} elders.

A sumons sent forth for Wim. Birch of Redish to appeare the next classe.

Mr. Jones, to preach the next classe.

Mr. Heyricke moderator the next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in May next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 89th MEETEINGE at Manchester, May the 9th, 1654.

1.—Mr. Jones preached before the classis according to order.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Richard Meare, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esq., Lawrance Wright, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; William Booth, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Salford: No minister, no elder.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esq., Alexander Heron, elders.

Eccles: No minister; no elder; Mr. Jones excused after the sermon.

Blakeley: No minister; no elder.

Prestwich: No minister; no elder.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

4.—Mr. Harison, moderator, gave a particuler account of the provinciall assembly houlden at Bolton the first Tuesday in May last; that it was a full assembly and did insist of twoe particulers; 1st, for revivinge the government; 2nd, concerneinge the excommunication of Mr. Hindley.

5.—Next PROVINCIALL ASSEMBLY to bee at Preston, the seacond Tuesday in October next.

6.—Mr. Francis Mosley, aged about 24 yeares, presented himselfe to ordination, hath beene examined in Hebrew, Greeke, Logicke, Philosophie, in Ethicks, Phisicks, and Metaphisicks and approved; had an instrumtt given him to bee affixed; his question —*an fidelis possit esse certus de salute sua.* Affir. def.

7.—Mr. Robert Seddon, aged about 24 yeares, presented himselfe to ordination, hath beene examined in Hebrew, Greeke,

Logicke, Philosophie, in Ethicks, Phisicks, and Metaphisicks, and approved; had an instrum^tt^ given him to bee affixed; his question—*an detur liberum arbitrium in spiritualibus.* Neg. def.

8.—Mr. Francis Mosley, & Mr. Robert Seddon to bee ordeyned at Gorton chappell upon Wednesday the fourteenth day of June next. Mr. Angier to preach, Mr. Hollinworth to give the exhortacon.

9.—A sumons to bee sent out for John Walworth of Ringley.

Mr. Francis Mosley to preach the next classe.

Mr. Harison moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in June next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 90^th^ MEETEINGE at Manchester, June 13°, 1654.

1.—The sermon was omitted by reason of Mr. Francis Mosleys unexpected absence.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elder^pps^ deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Richard Meare, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipp Stampe, William Higginbothom, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Hughe Tayler, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Turner, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; no elder.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Rogers, William Smith, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Robt. Hulme, William Birtinshaw, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, an elder.

Blakeley: No minister; John Travis, Samuel Tayler, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Holland, minister; no elder.

4.—An account was given by Mr. Angier why Mr. Francis Mosley proceeded no further to ordination in this classe, and desired a certificate to bee given him touching how farr this classe had proceeded with him in examination in order to ordination, w^ch^ was consented unto, and also given unto him. See more of him, Dec. 12, 1654.

5.—Mr. Seddon exhibited a testimoniall of his being Batchelor of Arts of Christ Colledge, Cambridge, returned his Instrument affixed and subscribed, hath beene examined in humane learninge, in Divinity, Cronologie, & Ecclesiasticall historie, mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an detur liberum arbitrium in spiritualibus*, and approved.

6.—Mr. Walton to preach the next classe.

Mr. Harison moderator next classe

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in July next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

☞ Mr. Seddon was ordained at Gorton accordinge to order, and received the testimonial of his ordination in the usuall forme, viz.:

Whereas—Mr. Robert Seddon, aged about 24 yeares, hath addressed . . . in the Church of Gorton, in the county of Lancaster, as by . . . exercise thereof in the Church of Gorton, in the county aforesaid . . . set our hands this 14th day of June, anno Domini, 1654.

John Angier, moderator.	John Walker.
Richard Heyricke.	Wm. Meeke.
Richard Hollinworth.	Edmund Jones.
John Angier.	Thomas Holland.

The 91th MEETEINGE at Manchester, July 11th, 1654.

1.—Mr. Walton preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Thomas Dickonson, Robert Bradshawe, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipe Stampe, William Higinbothom, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robert Leech, Robert Lees, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Collier, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esq., Alexander Heron, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Filds, an elder.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Pendleton, John Travis, elders.

Prestwich: Mr. Rathband, minister; Peter Sergeant, James Smeathurst, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ouldham: No minister; Josephe Hallowes, Francis Clegg, elders.

4.—Ordred that a summons bee sent to John Walworth of Ringley.

5.—Ordred likewise that a letter bee sent to Peter Seddon, senior, in relacon of Mr. Hollands goeinge from Ringley chapell, & desired it might bee comunicated to the rest of the chapelry there.

Mr. Heyricke moderator next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth to preach the next classe.
Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in August next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

AUGUST 8th, 1654.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth preached this day accordinge to order.
2.—This classis is adjorned untill Tuesday, the 12th day of September next.
3.—Mr. Heyricke moderator next classe.
Mr. Harison to preach the next classe.

The 92 MEETEINGE at Manchester, September 12o, 1654.

1.—Mr. Harison preached before the classe accordinge to order.
2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begun with prayer.
3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge.

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Tho. Dickonson, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.
Salford: No minister; William Higinbothom, an elder.
Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Edm. Heywood, Robt. Bardsley, elders.
Denton: No minister; William Booth, Robt. Collier, elders.
Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Tho. Strangwayes, Esq., Robt. Hulme, elders.
Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; no elders.
Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; Peter Sergeant, Adam Gaskell, elders.

Ringley: No minister; no elder.

Didsbury: No minister; no elder.

Flixton: No minister; no elder.

4.—A full and free dismission from the people at Ringley in relation to Mr. Hollands goeing from there was verbally given into this classe on their behalfe, by Thomas Strangwayes, Esquire.

5.—It is agreed that these ministers whose names are subscribed bee desired to attend the classe at Manchester the seacond Tuesday in November next: Mr. Woolmer, of Flixton; Mr. Leadsom, of Didsbury; & Mr. Bradshaw, of Ellenbrooke; Mr. Nuttall, of Stretford; Mr. Jackson, of Chorlton.

No account from the provinciall as yet.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in October next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

SEPTEMBER [*sic* FOR OCTOBER] 10th, 1654.

This classe is adjorned untill the seacond Tuesday in November next.

Mr. Seddon to preach next classe.

Mr. Heyricke moderator next classe.

The next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in December next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 93 MEETEINGE at Manchester, Nov. 14°, 1654.

1.—Mr. Sedon preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congreationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; no elder.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; William Higinbotham, an elder.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esq., Robt. Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esqr., Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Prestwich: Mr. Rathband, minister; James Wroe.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; William Bertinshawe, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: No minister; no elder.

4.—The business concerneing Mr. Ledsome was respited till the next classe.

5.—Mr. Wolmer sent in his letter of excuse, w^{ch} was accepted.

6.—Mr. John Wickins,[1] Mr. Michael Buxton,[2] Mr. James

[1] John Wickins, or Wickyns, M.A., of C.C.C., Oxford, Master of the Grammar School at Manchester 1652-75; buried at the Collegiate Church, 8th December, 1676. See note on him in Martindale's *Diary*, p. 76, and a fuller notice by Mr. Bailey in *Transactions of Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, iii. 140-3. He occurs in the *Court Leet Records* (iv. 197) as attesting the deed for the College barn in 1657.

[2] Michael Buxton, mercer of Manchester. First appears in the *Manchester Court Leet Records* in October 1639, as officer for forestalling and regrating the market (iii. 318). From this time to April, 1674, his name occurs very frequently—constable in 1644 and 1653, and boroughreeve in 1656. In the tax of 1668 he is assessed under "market sted lane" at 3*s*. (See also *ibid.*, iv. 152, 223.) He was among the protestors of Manchester in 164½, and signed the invitation to Newcome in 1656. His house was licensed for a meeting house under the indulgence of February 167⅔. (*Local Gl.*, iii. 444-8) Died December 28, 1677. (Newcome *Autob.*, 304). Newcome was much interested in his son of the same name.

Lancashire,[1] Mr. Thomas Illingworth,[2] Mr. Wm. Byrom,[3] & Mr. Raphe Wollen,[4] appeared this day before the classe, & were approved for ruleing elders.

Mr. Angier to preach the next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in December next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

[1] Mr. James Lancashire, "clothier of Manchester." See Mr. Bailey's note in *Pal. Note Book*, i. 210, where, however, there is a mistake in identifying him with the junior constable of 1634. He first occurs in the *Manchester Court Leet Records* in 1646 (iii. 335), where he appears as "son and heir apparent of Thomas Lancashire." See Mr. Earwaker's note, vol. iv. p. 61. He was "of age" only shortly before October, 1650.

He was constable in 1653, churchwarden in 1654 and 1659, boroughreeve in 1655, signs both Wrigley's and Radcliffe's election to Parliament, and occurs as a feoffee of Nugent's Charity, and Clarke's and others', and of the Pendleton Chapel. Died 13th July, 1677.

He is the James Lancashire whose marriage with "Mr. Lever's daughter" was so often referred to *supra* in the depositions relating to Toby Furness.

[2] Thomas Illingworth, clothier, of Manchester, son and heir of Thomas Illingworth of Manchester, who died 1639 (*Manchester Court Leet Records*, iii. 288). Was of age some time before October, 1640, constable 1651, boroughreeve 1658; buried in the Collegiate Church 25th March, 1670. He is not to be confused with Newcome's "dear friend" of the *Diary*.

[3] William Byrom, linen draper, of Manchester. Baptised 12th November, 1615. (See pedigree, Dugdale, p. 67, and Mr. Earwaker's notes *Manchester Court Leet Records*, iv. 283, v. 82.) First appears in the *Leet Records* in October, 1647, as scavenger for Marketsted; constable 1654, boroughreeve 1657, buried 24th December, 1665. His will is printed in Raines' *Byrom Pedigrees*.

[4] A Ralph Wollen appears in the *Manchester Court Leet Records* from October, 1619, up to 1662 without a break. Mr. Earwaker conjectures that two persons of the name are indicated, but it may not be needful, as Newcome always refers to him as "old Mr. Wollen." In 1650 he was dwelling in the Deansgate. He died June 8th, 1663. (Newcome *Diary*, 191.) See the abstract of his will in *Manchester Court Leet Records*, v. 34. Newcome kept a yearly thanksgiving at his house on the 31st October (apparently the birthday) "that God hath preserved him still another year."

The 94 MEETEINGE at Manchester, December 12°, 1654.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth preached instead of Mr. Angier.

2.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begunne with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Richard Meare, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; William Higinbothom, an elder.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Isaac Dehowe, Robt. Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier sent his letter of excuse, w^ch^ was accepted.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland sent his excuse; Samuel Tayler, an elder.

Prestwich: No minister; Peter Sergeant, Samuel Smethurst, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Edge, an elder.

4.—Mr. Francis Mosley to proceed the next classe in examinacon in order to his ordination, and to be ordeyned at Manchester the tenth day of January.

5.—Mr. Heyricke to preach, Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Meeke to pray, & Mr. Angier to give the exhortacon.

6.—Mr. Ledsam to bee desired to speake to Mr. Heyricke & Mr. Hollinworth the next tyme hee comes to Manchester.

Mr. Francis Mosley to preach the next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator next classe.

Next classe the seacond Tuesday in January next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 95 MEETEINGE at Manchester, 9th day of January, 165⅓.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begun with prayer.

2.—Mr. Mosley preached before the classe accordinge to order.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Richard Meare, Robert Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robert Lees, & Hughe Tayler, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; William Booth, Robert Turner, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; no elder.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Edge, an elder.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; William Birtenshawe, & Robert Hulme, elders.

4.—Mr. Francis Mosley hath beene examined in humane learneing, in divinitie, in cronologie, & in ecclesiasticall historie, mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an fidelis ordinarie certus esse possit de salute sua*; & approved.

5.—Mr. Mosley brought in a testimoniall subscribed by severall of the inhabitants of the parish of Bunbury, of the trueth of the affixinge of his instrument on the church doore of Bunbury aforesaid, and no objeccon at all made agaⁱᵗ him.

6.—A summons to bee sent unto John Booth of Aldwinshawe [Audenshaw], in the parish of Ashton-under-lyne.

7.—Upon the desire of severall of the inhabitants of Ringley. it is ordred that a fast shall bee kept there. Mr. Angier and Mr. Rathband to preach.

8.—*Whereas*[1] Mr. Francis Mosley, M[r] of Arts, aged about 24 years, hath addressed himselfe . . . in the church of Banbury, in the county of Chester, as by . . . exercise thereof in the church of Bunbury, in the county aforesaid, . . . sett our hands this Wednesday, the 10[th] January, 165¾.

Apud Manchester in Com. Lanc.

Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, *pro tempore.*

Richard Heyricke.	William Meeke.
John Angier.	Thomas Holland.
John Harison.	Edmund Jones.
	John Walker.

9.—Mr. Thomas Aspinall, Batchelour of Artes, aged about 25 yeares, presented himselfe to ordination, hath beene examined in Hebrew, Greeke, Logicke, and Philosophie, in Ethics, Phisicks, & Metaphisicks, & thus far approved. His question—*an datur perfectio in hac vita.* Neg. def.

10.—Mr. Aspinall to preach the next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in February.

The moderator ended with prayer.

11.—Mr. Francis Mosley on the 10[th] of January, in the Church of Manchester, was solemnly ordained by the presbyters there, and testimonial letters were given him of his said ordination, beareinge date at the time and place aforesaid.

Subscribed by

Richard Hollinworth, moderator.	William Meeke.
Richard Heyricke.	Thomas Holland.
John Angier.	Edmund Jones.
John Harison.	John Walker.

[1] The whole of minute 8 has been crossed out in the *MS.*, and the numbering of the subsequent minutes altered. I print it here without any of the signs of erasure. Minute 11 is an interpolation in the original *MS.*

The 96 MEETEINGE at Manchester, Feb. 13°, 165⅘.

1.—Mr. Aspinall preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severll congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Raphe Wollen, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; no elder.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esq., Robt. Leech, elders.

Denton: No minister; Robert Collier, Robert Stansfield, elders.

Newton: Mr. Wallker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Prestwich: Mr. Rathband, minister; James Wroe, Adam Gaskell, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Tho. Strangewayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

4.—Mr. Thomas Aspinall mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an detur perfectio in hac vita.* Neg. def.

Hath beene examined in Divinitie, in Cronologie, in Ecclesiasticall history, and approved; hee alsoe brought in a testimoniall of his faire call to Ashley Chappell, in Cheshire.

5.—Elders for the congregation of Ellinbroocke appeared; they were examined and approved. Their names are: Thomas Smith, Thomas Toping, Roger Eckersley, Gyles Lomax, Henry Smith, Raphe Darbishire, Thomas Lansdale, & Thomas Arrowsmith.[1]

[1] All these names, except Arrowsmith and Lomax, occur in the list of inhabitants of Eccles in 1642. Thomas Toping was a staunch friend of Newcome. It was at his house that Newcome took shelter in April, 1666, on the passing of the Five Mile Act. He died apparently on or before the 9th December, 1674. (*Diary*, 304).

6.—Mr. Aspinall to bee ordeyned at Manchester upon Wednesday, the last day of February instant. Mr. Hollinworth to preach; Mr. Heyricke to give the exhortacon; Mr. Angier, Mr. Harison, & Mr. Rathband to pray.

7.—It is ordred that a sumons bee sent to George Grimshawe of Manchester.

Mr. Meeke to preach the next classe.

Mr. Bradshawe moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in March next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

Mr. Aspinall ordained at Manchester, Feb. 28. His lettres testimoniall given him in the usuall forme, viz.:

Whereas Mr. Thomas Aspinall, Batchelor of Arts, aged about 25 yeares, hath addressed himselfe . . . in the Chappell at Ashley, in the county of Chester, as by etc. . . . exercise thereof in the Chappell at Ashley, in the countie aforesaid, etc. . . . set our hands this Wednesday, the last day of February, 165$\frac{4}{5}$.

Apud Manchester, in Com. Lanc.

Richard Hollinworth, moderator *pro tempore.*

Richard Heyricke,	John Walker,
John Harison,	Edmund Jones,
John Angier,	Tho. Holland.
Wim. Meeke,	

The 97th MEETEINGE at Manchester, 13th March, 1654.

1.—Mr. Meeke preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Bradshawe *preached before the classe*[1], moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

[1] These words are apparently a clerical error.

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Mr. Wollen, Mr. Buxton, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esq., Capt. Sandiford, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; William Booth, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; William Birtinshawe, Robert Hulme, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Richard Edge, Thomas Fylds, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; William Higinbotham, an elder.

Prestwich: No minister; no elder.

Didsbury: No minister; no elder.

Chorlton: No minister; no elder.

Flixton: No minister; no elder.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; no elder.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Bradshawe, minister; Roger Eckersley, Thomas Arrowsmith, elders.

4.—Ordred that a seacond sumons bee sent to George Grimshawe of Manchester, to appeare before the classis at Manchester, the seacond Tuesday in Aprill next.

5.—Ordred that a fast bee observed at Ouldham, the 28th of March next, in relacon to the small pox.

6.—Ordred likewise that a fast bee observed at Manchester, the 4th of Aprill, upon the same occasion.

Mr. Angier, & Mr. Harison to preach, Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Rathband to pray.

Mr. Scholes to preach to next classe.

Mr. Bradshawe moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in Aprill next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 98º MEETEINGE at Manchester, the 10th of Aprill, 1655.

1.—Mr. Scoles preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Bradshawe, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Mr. Wim. Byrom, Mr. Illingworth, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Lees, Hughe Tayler, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Fylds, Thomas Rogers, elders.

Salford: No minister; William Higinbotham, an elder.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esq., Alexander Heron, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Prestwich: Mr. Rathband, minister; James Wroe, Adam Gaskell, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Bradshawe, minister; Thomas Smith, Roger Eckersley, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; no elder.

Ringley: No minister; no elder.

Didsbury: No minister; no elder.

Flixton: No minister; no elder.

Stretford: No minister; no elder.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; no elder.

4.—Delegated for the Provinciall assembly to bee houlden at Preston the 1st Tuesday in May next:

Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Rathband, Mr. Bradshawe } ministers.

Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Sergeant, Robt. Lees, Raphe Darbishire, Sam. Scolfield, John Travis } elders.

5.—Mr. Jeremie Scoles, M^{r} of Arts, aged about 25 yeares, presented himselfe to ordinacon; hath beene examined in Hebrew, Greeke, Logicke, Philosophie, in Ethics, Phisicks, & Metaphisicks, and approved. His question—*an salus ethnicorum sit ordinarie possibilis.* Neg. def.

6.—Mr. James Jackson, Batcheloure of Arts, aged about 24 yeares, presented himselfe to ordinacon; hath beene examined in Greeke, Logicke, & Philosophie, in Ethics, Phisicks & Metaphisicks, & approved. His question—*an datur peccatum originale.* Affir. def.

Mr. Jackson to preach next classe.

Mr. Bradshawe moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in May next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 99th MEETEINGE at Manchester, May 8^{o}, 1655.

1.—Mr. Jackson preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Bradshawe, moderator, begune with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Mr. Wilkins, Mr. Wollen, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Robt. Leech, elders.

Denton: No minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq, Peter Ashton, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Salford: No minister; no elder.

Prestwich: No minister; James Smethurst, James Tayler, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; John Travis, Joseph Hallowes, elders.

Eccles: No minister; William Smith, Thomas Fylds, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Bradshawe, minister; Gyles Lomax, Thomas Lansden, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Wm. Birtinshawe, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Nuttall, minister; no elders.

Ringley, Didsbury, Flixton, } No minister; no elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Hollinworth gave an account from the Provincial Assembly at Preston that they did meete and did agree that the Lords Prayer, the Apostles Creede, and the Ten Commandments should bee revived by the ministers of the severall classes, and propounded this question to bee resolved the next Provinciall Meeteinge, viz.: how farr it might bee lawful for a man to heare an unordeyned minister.

The next Provincial Assembly to bee at Preston the 1st Tuesday in October next.

5.—Mr. Scholes hath beene examined in Divinity, in Cronologie, in ecclesiasticall history. Hee mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an salus ethnicorum sit ordinarie possibilis*, and approved.

6.—Mr. Jackson brought in a testimoniall of his faire call to Chorlton Chappell.

7.—Mr. Jackson hath beene examined in Divinity, in Cronologie, and in Ecclesiasticall historie. He mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an detur peccatum originale.*

Mr. Constantyne moderator next classe.

Mr. Seddon to preach the next classe.

Next classe to bee the 2nd Tuesday in June next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 100th MEETEINGE at Manchester, June 12°, 1655.

1.—Mr. Seddon preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Constantyne, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; no elder.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Ashton, Esq., Capt. Sandiford, elders.

Denton: No minister; Robert Collier, Robt. Turner, elders.

Prestwich: Mr. Rathband, minister; no elder.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; no elder.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Pendleton, an elder.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; Edm. Sandiford, Samuel Scolfield, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Fylds, Thomas Rogers, elders.

Ellenbroocke: No minister; Henry Smith, Thomas Lansdale, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Tho. Strangwayes, Esq., Alexander Heron, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

4.—Mr. Jeremy Scoles and Mr. James Jackson to bee ordeyned at Chorlton Chappell upon Thursday, the fift day of July. Mr.

Rathband to preach, Mr. Meeke to give the exhortacon, Mr. Constantyne and Mr. Seddon to pray.

5.—A motion made and agreed unto that the twoe usuall exercises formerly at Eccles and Ouldham bee devided and monethly observed at the five parish churches within this classe, viz., at Manchester, at Ashton-under-lyne, at Prestwich, Ouldham, and at Eccles.

Mr. Jones to preach the next classe.

Mr. Constantyne moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in July next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 101th MEETEINGE at Manchester, July 10th, 1655.

1.—Mr. Jones preached (for Mr. Walker) before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Constantyne, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Illingworth, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Mr. Stampe, Wim. Higginbothom, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., William Booth, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Edm. Heywood, Robert Bardsley, elders.

Prestwich: Mr. Rathband, minister; James Wroe, Adam Gaskell, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Tho: Strangewayes, Esq., William Birtinshawe, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Fylds, William Smith, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; John Smith, John Worrall, elders.

Ellinbroocke: Mr. Bradshawe, minister; Tho. Topinge and Tho. Arrowsmith, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; no elder.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, an elder.

4.—Agreed that Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Rathband, & Mr. Meeke shall drawe up reasons wherefore the exercises at Ouldham & Eccles shall from henceforth bee at more places than there.

5.—The classe haveing received a paper signed by Mr. Samuel Eaton,[1] Wim. Barrott, and Wim. Thompson, declareinge the names of certaine persons and the causes of their excommunication, it was voted that the said paper should bee read in the severall congregatious belonging to the classis, but the manner of reading of it referred to bee debated the next meeteinge.

Mr. Scoles and Mr. Jackson aforesaid were ordained at Chorlton Chappell on the 5th of July, 1655, and received letters testimonial of theire said ordination in the usual forme, viz.:

6.—*Whereas* Mr. Jeremy Scoles, M^r^ of Arts, aged about 25 years, hath addressed himselfe . . . in the Chappell of Chorlton, in the county of Lancaster, as by etc. . . . exercise thereof, in the Chappell of Chorlton, in the county aforesaid, etc. . . . this Thursday, the fift day of July, 1655.

Apud Chorlton in Com. Lanc.

Robt. Constantyne, moderator *pro tempore.*

Richard Heyricke.	William Meeke.
John Angier.	Edmund Jones.
Nathaniel Rathband.	

[1] For Eaton, the Independent Minister of Duckinfield, see appendix. Barret and Thompson were two of the ruling elders of the congregation of Duckinfield. Newcome preached at the funeral of the latter at Stockport, February 22, 166½. In the *Autob.* he describes Barret as "one of the elders of the gathered church at Stockport [*sic* meaning Duckinfield], a busy pragmatical man," and gives a lengthy interesting account of his conduct at an exercise at Macelesfield in February, 1652. In those days Independency was aggressive.

7.—*Whereas* Mr. James Jackson, Batcheloure of Arts, aged about 24 yeares, hath addressed himselfe . . . in the Chappell of Chorlton, in the county of Lancaster, as by . . . exercise thereof in the Chappell of Chorlton, in the county aforesaid, etc. . . set our hands this Thursday, the fift day of July, 1655.

Apud Chorlton in Com. Lanc.

Robert Constantyne, moderator *pro tempore.*

Richard Heyricke. William Meeke.
John Angier. Edmund Jones.
Nathaniel Rathband.

Mr. Constantyne moderator next classe.
Mr. Jones to preach next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 102 MEETEINGE at Manchester, August 14°, 1655.

1.—Mr. Illingworth preached before the classe for Mr. Jones.

2.—Mr. Constantyne, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge.

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; Mr. Buxton, Robert Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Leech, Lawrance Wright, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Stansfield, John Gee, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; John Lees, James Lees, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Alexander Heron, John Hulme, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Pendleton, Samuel Taylor, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillip Stampe, Wim. Heginbothom, elders.

Ellinworth: Mr. Bradshawe, minister; Raphe Darbishire, Thomas Lonsdale, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Rogers, William Smith, elders.

Prestwich: Mr. Rathband, minister; James Wroe, an elder.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; no elder.

Stretford: Mr. Scoles, minister; no elder.

Didsbury & Flixton: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Agreed that the paper sent into the classe by Mr. Samuel Eaton and others bee diferred untill the next classicall meeteinge, and then the same to bee determined.

5.—The elders from Chorlton appeared, and were contented to continue as elders there.

6.—Mr. John Baine, aged about 27 yeares, presented himselfe to ordination, brought in a testimoniall of his lawfull and faire call to the vicaradge of Acam [Acomb] in the county of Yorke, and an other testimoniall subscribed by severall godly ministers in the county aforesaid, signifieinge hee is orthodox in learneinge and blameles in life and conversacon; hath beene examined in Divinity, Greeke, and Hebrewe, and approved. Had an instrum^{tt} given him to bee affixed. His question—*an fides sola justificat.*

7.—Mr. Rathband moderator next classe.

Mr. Meeke to preach next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in September next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 103 MEETEINGE at Manchester, September 11, 1655.

1.—Mr. Meeke preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Mr. Wim. Byrom, Mr. James Lancashire, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Hughe Tayler, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Capt. William Booth, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; no elder.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; no elder.

Prestwich: No minister; Peter Sergeant, an elder.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Tho. Strangwayes, Esq., Wim. Birtinshawe, elders.

Eccles: No minister; no elder.

Stretford: Mr. Scoles, minister; no elder.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; no elder.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; Francis Clegg, Joseph Hallowes, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Tayler, Samuel Pendleton, elders.

4.—Mr. John Baine to bee ordayned at Manchester, Wednesday, the tenth of October next; Mr. Bradshawe to preach, Mr. Constantyne to give the exhortacon.

5.—Delegated for the Provinciall Assembly at Preston the first Tuesday in October next:—

Mr. Harison,
Mr. Meeke,
Mr. Holland,
} ministers.

Mr. John Wickins,
Capt. William Booth,
Mr. Peter Sergeant,
Hughe Taylor,
Francis Clegg, &
Wm. Higinbothom,
} elders.

6—Agreed that a publicke fast bee observed at Manchester Thursday, the twentieth of September instant. Mr. Heyricke & Mr. Angier to preach; Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Harrison, & Mr. Constantyne to pray.

7.—It is agreed that the busines concerneinge the paper sent into the classis by Mr. Samuel Eaton & others bee respited to see if an accomodation will be had.

Mr. Heyricke moderator next classe.

Mr. John Baine to preach next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in October next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 104th MEETEINGE at Manchester, October 9°, 1655.

1.—Mr. John Baine preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipp^{s} deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; Mr. Wollen, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Captaine Sandiford, Robt. Lees, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; no elder.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Rogers, Thomas Edge, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Alexander Herron, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; Samuel Scolfield, John Travis, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipe Stampe, William Higinbothom, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; John Barlowe, James Chorlton, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

4.—Mr. John Baine brought in his testimoniall affixed and subscribed; mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an fides sola justificat,* and approved.

5.—Mr. Harison gave an account from the Provinciall Assembly as followes:

6.—It is referred to the next Provinciall Assembly to consider wheather it were not fitt that a short and plaine forme of chatakisme for the instruccon of those that are very yonge, or very ignorant, or otherwise not so capable of learneing either of the assemblies chatachismes, should be drawen and comended by this assembly to bee used in this province for the benefit of the said persons.

7.—Next PROVINCIALL ASSEMBLY to bee at Preston the 1st Tuesday in May next.

8.—Master Wm. Tawyer, M^{r} of Arts, aged about 28 yeares, presented himselfe to ordination; brought in a testimoniall of his faire call to the Church of Todcaster [Tadcaster], in the county of Yorke, as alsoe an other testimoniall of his diligence in his studies, and blameles in life and conversacon; hath beene examined in Hebrew, Greeke, in Divinity, & Cronologie, and approved; had an instrument given him to bee affixed; his question—*an opera justorum sint perfecta.* Neg. deff.

9.—Mr. Baine aforesaid was ordained at Manchester the next day, beinge Octob. 10th, and received testimonialls thereof in the usual forme, viz.—

Whereas Mr. John Baine, aged about 27, hath addressed himselfe . . . in the Church of Acam, in the county of Yorke, as by etc. . . . exercise thereof, in the Church of Acam, in the county aforesaid, set our hands this Wednesday, the tenth day of October, 1655.

Richard Heyricke, moderator *pro tempore.*

John Angier.	Richard Hollinworth.
John Harison.	Robt. Costerdyne.
William Meeke.	Edmund Jones.
John Walker.[1]	

Mr. Heyricke moderator next classe.

Mr. Holland to preach next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in November next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 105 MEETEINGE at Manchester, November 13°, 1655.

1.—Mr. Holland preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Mr. Meare, Mr. Illingworth, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robert Collier, Peter Ashton, elders,

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Robert Bardsley, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; no elder.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Fylds, William Smith, elders.

Ouldham: No minister; no elder.

Prestwich: Mr. Rathband, minister; no elder.

[1] Minute 9 has been interpolated in the *MS.* The handwriting of this entry is apparently that of Samuel Angier, the scribe, in 1697, of the minutes of the "United Brethren." (See Appendix I.) The file of ordination papers, therefore, from which he inserted the entry must have been in existence at that date. They are not known to be in existence now.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; no elder.

Gorton: No minister; Thomas Strangwayes, William Birtinshawe, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; John Barlowe, James Chorlton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, an elder.

4.—Mr. Tawyeare to bee ordeyned at Manchester, Wednesday, the 12° December next; Mr. Angier to preach, Mr. Harison to give the exhortacon.

5.—The matter concerneinge the Catachisme is to bee taken notice of in this classe the seacond Tuesday in December next.

6.—A day of thanksgiveinge to bee at Manchester, Wednesday, the 28° instant; Mr. Harison, Mr. Rathband, to preach.

Mr. Tawyer to preach next classe.

Mr. Harison moderator next classe.

Next classe the 2° Tuesday in December next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 106 MEETEINGE at Manchester, December 11°, 1655.

1.—Mr. Tawyer preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Hollinworth, minister; Mr. Meare, Mr. Wim. Byrom, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; no elder.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robert Hyde, Esq., Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillippe Stampe, William Higinbotham, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Richard Edge, Thomas Edge, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; John Lees, James Lees, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Berron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Prestwich: Mr. Rathband, minister; Peter Sergeant, James Wroe, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Alexander Heron, Robert Hulme, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, an elder.

Chorlton: No minister; no elder.

Stretford: Mr. Scoles, minister; no elder.

Didsbury & Flixton: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Tawyer hath beene examined in Logicke, Phisicks, Ethicks, & Metaphysicks . . . returned his instrum^{tt} affixed and subscribed . . . mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an opera justorum sint perfecta*, and approved.

5.—Master John Lindley, Batchalor of Arts, aged about 24 yeares, presented himselfe to ordination; hath beene examined in Logicke, Physicks, Ethicks, & Methaphisicks, in Greeke & Hebrew, and approved; had an instrum^{tt} given him to bee affixed; his question—*an spiritus sanctus habitat in renatis personaliter*. Neg. def.

6.—Mr. Lindley to bee ordeyned at Manchester Wednesday, the 6th of February.

Mr. Constantyne to preach the next classe.

Mr. Harrison moderator next classe.

Next classe to be the seacond Tuesday in January next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

Mr. Tawyer was ordained at Manchester as beforesaid, and received letters testimonial of his said ordination in the usual forme, viz.:

Whereas Mr. Wm. Tawyer, aged about 28 yeares, hath

addressed himselfe . . . in the church of Todcaster, in the county of Yorke, as by . . . exercise thereof in the church of Todcaster, in the county aforesaid, set our hands this Wednesday, the 12° day of December, 1655.

John Harison, moderator, *pro tempore.*

Richard Heyricke.	Richard Hollinworth.
John Angier.	William Meeke.
Robt. Costerdyne.	Edmund Jones.

The 107 MEETEINGE at Manchester, January 8°, 165⅝.

1.—Mr. Constantyne preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begune with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, minister; William Byrom, Raphe Wallen, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Capt. Sandiford, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robert Collier, John Gee, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Berron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; John Barlowe, James Chorlton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Jas. Strangewayes, Esq., Alexander Heron, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; William Smith, Thomas Filds, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; Francis Clegg, Joseph Hallowes, elders.

4.—Mr. John Lindley to bee ordeyned at Manchester, the 13th day of February next.

Mr. Harison to preach, Mr. Hollinworth to give the exhortacon.

5.—Agreed that a com. of ministers and as many elders as can, shall meete at the house of Mr. John Harison in Ashton, the first Monday in February next, to consider about a chatechisme, and to present their thoughts concerneing it to the classe at their next meeteinge.

Mr. Lindley to preach the next classe.

Mr. Harison moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in February next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 108 MEETEINGE at Manchester, Feb. 12°, 165§.

1.—Mr. Lindley preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers: Mr. Wickens, Mr. Buxtons, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Robt. Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esqr., Capt. Wim. Booth, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; no elder.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; William Smith, Thomas Edge, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipe Stampe, Wim. Higinbothom, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; John Travis, Samuel Tayler, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; Edward Sandiford, Samuel Scolfield.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; John Barlow, James Chorlton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Tho: Strangwayes, Esq., William Birtinshawe, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Scoles, minister; no elder.

Didsbury, Flixton, } No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Lindley returned his instrum^{tt} affixed and subscribed, was examined in Divinity, in ecclesiasticall history, & in cronologie, mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an spiritus sanctus habitat in renatis personaliter*, & approved.

5.—Mr Lindley to bee ordeyned at Manchester, the 13^{o} day of February instant.

Mr. Harison to preach, Mr. Walker, Mr. Meeke to pray, Mr. Hollinworth to give the exhortacon, and Mr. Angier to pray at the imposicon of hands.

6.—The places where the exercise that is agreed upon shall bee at, are these:

Ouldham, Ashton-under-lyne, Denton, Didsbury, Manchester, Flixton, Eccles, & Prestwich.

7.—It is agreed that the exercise shall begin at Ouldham, the third Wednesday in March next, and soe forth every third Wednesday in the severall moneths untill the tenth day of October, at the places above said, and the ministers at every one of these places are to take care for supply thereof, but if there be no minister at any of these places, or if the minister at any such place doth not frequent the classicall meeteings, then the classe is to provide for the same exercise.

8.—Mr. Lindley ordained at Manchester, Feb, 13^{o}, 1655, his letters testimonial of his ordination in the usuall forme, viz.:

Whereas Mr. John Lindley, aged about 24 yeares, hath addressed himselfe . . . in the church of Snaith, in the county

of Yorke, as by . . . exercise thereof in the church of Snaith, in the county aforesaid, . . . set our hands this Wednesday, the 13° day of February, 165⅝.

John Harison, moderator, *pro tempore.*

Richard Heyricke, Robert Constantyne,
Richard Hollinworth, William Meeke,
John Angier, Edmund Jones,
} ministers.

Mr. Harison to preach the next classe.

Mr. Angier moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in March next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 109 MEETEINGE at Manchester, March 11°, 165⅝.

1.—Mr. Hollinworth preached before the classe for Mr. Harison.

2.—Mr. Angier, moderator, not comeing in tyme, Mr. Heyricke begun with prayer, concluded by Mr. Angier.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Mr. Wollen, Mr. Lancashire, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Sandiford, Edmund Heywood, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Capᵗᵗ. Booth, Robert Turner, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; John Smith, John Worral, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Eccles: No minister; Thomas Rogers, Thomas Edge, elders.
Gorton: Mr. Seddon, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esqr., Alexander Heron, elders.
Ellenbrooke: Mr. Bradshawe, minister; Thomas Toppinge, Gyles Lomax, elders.
Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; John Barlowe, James Chorlton, elders.
Stretford: Mr. Jeremiah Scoles, minister; no elder.
Prestwich, Flixton, Didsbury, } No minister; no elder.
Mr. Hollinworth to preach next classe.
Mr. Angier moderator next classe.
Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in Aprill next.

The moderator concluded with prayer.

The 110 MEETEINGE at Manchester, Aprill 15°, 1656, being adjorned for a weeke.

1.—Mr. Harison preached before the classe accordinge to order.
2.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begun with prayer.
3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:
Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; no elder.
Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robert Lees, Lawrance Wright, elders.
Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Capt. Booth, Robert Stansfield, elders.
Gorton: No minister; Robert Hulme, William Birtinshawe, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Bradshawe, minister; Thomas Smith, Thomas Topinge, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; John Travis, Samuel Tayler, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; John Lees, James Lees, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Scoles, minister; no elder.

4.—Delegates from Manchester to attend the Provinciall Assembly at Preston, the 1st Tuesday in May:

Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Harison, Mr. Bradshawe, } ministers.

Mr. Richard Meare, Mr. Thomas Smith, Thomas Toping, Robt. Stansfield, Thomas Baron, Capt. Sandiford, } elders.

5.—*Forasmuch* as Mr. John Holland, a neighboure to us, well knowne and approved by us, hath addressed himselfe to this classe this day desireing ordination from us, wee should most readily therein have answered his desire, but that wee apprehended it most regular in the first place to recommend him to you, being hee is to exercise his ministry amongst you; yet if you shall be pleased to signifie that it will stand with your likeing, wee shall herein satisfie his desires, being hee was borne amongst us, and hath many friends that would willingly bee present at his ordination.

To the associated ministers in Cheshire meeteing at Knutsford or elsewhere.

At the classicall meeting at Manchester, Aprill, 1656.

6.—Mr. Angier to preach next classe.

Mr. Angier moderator next classe.

Next classe the 2o Tuesday in May next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The III MEETEINGE at Manchester, May 13°, 1656.

1.—Mr. Angier preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Angier, moderater, in whose absence Mr. Heyricke made supply and begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; Mr. Wickins & Mr. Meare, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Captaine Ashton, Robert Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robert Hyde, Captaine Booth, elders.

Ouldham: No minister; John Travis, Josephe Hallowes, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Tho. Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Filds, William Smith, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; John Barlowe, James Chorlton, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Ellinbrooke, Stretford, Prestwich, Didsbury, & Flixton: No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Heyricke gave an account from the Provinciall, that they did meete and that there was a synod, and that the matter concerneing Mr. Tildesley was then debated, and by the vote of the assembly it was referred to Mr. Tildesley's owne conscience,

and to five other ministers, whose advice hee might use for his satisfaccon in the case.

Next Provintiall Assembly to bee at Blackburne the first Tuesday in October next.

5.—Mr. John Holland, Batcheloure of Arts, aged about 25 yeares, presented himselfe to ordination; hath beene examined in Greeke, in Cronologie, in Ecclesiasticall history, and in Divinitie, and approved; had an instrument given him to bee affixed; his question—*an papa sit antichristus.* Affir.

Mr. Heyricke to preach next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator next classe.

Next [classe] the second Tuesday in June.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 112th MEETINGE at Manchester, June 10°, 1656.

1.—Mr. Meeke preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Angier, moderator, in whose absence Mr. Heyricke made supply and begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meetinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Ashton: No minister; Robert Lees, Laurance Wright, elders.

Denton: No minister; Robert Collier, John Gee, elders.

Ellinbrooke: Mr. Bradshaw, minister; Henry Smith, Thomas Lansdale, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; no elder.

Prestwich,
Ouldham,
Ringley,
Didsbury,
Flixton,
Gorton,
Newton,
Stretford: } No minister; no elder.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Wim. Higinbothom, Phillipp Stampe, elders.

4.—A motion made that the classe would move the congregacon at Denton to lend Mr. Angier to the congregacon at Ringley for a short tyme for the settlement of the people there, and to make way for his sonn. The elders of Denton are desired to acquaint the congregation there, and to returne answeare the next classe.

5.—Mr. John Holland to bee ordeyned at Manchester the 9th of July next. Mr. Bradshawe to preach, Mr. Meeke to give the exhortacon.

Mr. John Holland to preach the next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Teusday in July next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 113th MEETEINGE at Manchester, July 8o, 1656.

1.—Mr. John Holland preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; Raphe Wollen, Robert Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Sandiford, Edmund Heywood, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Robt. Turner, elders.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipp Stampe, Wm. Higinbothom, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Fylds, William Smith, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; Francis Clegg, John Travis, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esq.; Alexander Heron, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; John Barlow, James Chorlton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Tho. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Ellinbroocke, Flixton, Didsbury, Stretford: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. John Holland hath beene further examined in logicke, in Ethics, Phisicks, and metaphisicks; mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an papa sit antichristus*, and approved.

5.—Mr. John Holland returned his instrument affixed and subscribed.

6.—An exercise to bee at Manchester the third Wednesday in August next.

Mr. John Holland was ordained at Manchester accordingly July 9th, 1656, and had letters testimonial of his said ordination in the usuall forme, viz.:

That whereas Mr. John Holland, aged about 25 yeares, hath addressed himselfe . . . in the Church of Weverham, in the

county of Chester, as by . . . exercise thereof, in the Church of Weverham, in the county aforesaid . . . set our hands this Wednesday, the 9th day of July, anº Dni 1656.

Richard Hollinworth, moderator.

Richard Heyricke, William Meeke,
John Angier, Edmund Jones,
John Harison, Thos. Holland,
Robert Constantine,
} ministers.

Mr. Angier, junior, to preach the next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in August next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 114 MEETEINGE at Manchester, September [*sic* for August] 9, 1656.

1.—Mr. Angier, junr, preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Hollinworth, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers; no elder.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Ashton, gent., Edm. Heywood, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Collier, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: No minister; Richard Edge, Thomas Fylds, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipp Stampe, Wim. Higinbothom, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chorlton, John Barlow, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Thomas Strangwayes, gent., Alexander Heron, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; John Travis, Sam. Tayler, elders.

Ellenbroocke: No minister; Thomas Toping, Roger Eckersall, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Scoles, minister; no elder.

Ouldham: No minister; Samuel Scolfield, James Lees, elders.

Prestwich: No minister; no elder.

Didsbury & Flixton: No minister; no elder.

Mr. Browne to preach next classe.

Mr. Hollinworth moderator next classe.

Next classe the second Tuesday in September next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 115 MEETEINGE at Manchester, 9th September, 1656.

1.—Mr. Holland preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, for Mr. Hollinworth, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge.

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; Mr. Lancashire, Robert Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: No minister; Robt. Ashton, gent., Robt. Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; no elder.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; no elder.

Gorton: No minister; Thomas Strangwayes, gent., Wim. Birtinshawe, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Bradshawe, minister; no elder.

Eccles: No minister; no elder.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Salford: No minister; William Higginbothom, an elder.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chorlton, John Barlowe, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; John Lees, Francis Clegg, elders.

Didsbury, Prestwich, Flixton: No minister; no elder.

Stretford: Mr. Scoles, minister; no elder.

Delegated from Manchester to attend the Provintiall Assembly at Blakeburne 1st Tuesday in Octo. next:

Mr. Hollinworth, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Jackson, ministers. Mr. Wrigley, Mr. Wim. Booth, Mr. Wim. Byrom, Tho. Arrowsmith, Tho. Edge, Peter Ashton, elders.

4.—Agreed that the business concerneing Prestwich bee considered of the next classe.[1]

5.—An exercise to bee at Prestwich the fourth Wednesday in September instant.

Mr. Coleburne to preach next classe.

Mr. Meeke moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in October next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

[1] The impending removal of Rathband from Prestwich. (See Booker's *Prestwich*, p. 104.)

The 116 MEETEINGE at Manchester, October 14, 1656.

1.—Mr. Colburne preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Meeke, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpps deputed for this meeteinge :

Manchester : Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Hollinworth, ministers ; Mr. Wickins, William Byrom, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne : Mr. Harison, minister ; Robt. Lees, Lawrance Wright, elders.

Denton : Mr. Angier, minister ; Robt. Stansfield, Robt. Collier, elders.

Ellenbroocke : Mr. Bradshawe, minister ; Thomas Topinge, Thomas Longsdale,[1] elders.

Newton : No minister ; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles : No minister ; Thomas Rogers, Thomas Fyldes, elders.

Ouldham : Mr. Constantine, minister ; Edward Sandiford, Sam. Scolfield, elders.

Gorton : No minister ; Alexander Heron, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Ringley : Mr. Angier, junior, minister ; no elder.

Blakeley : Mr. Holland, minister ; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Salford : Mr. Meeke, minister ; William Higginbothom, an elder.

Chorlton : Mr. Jackson, minister ; James Chorlton, John Barlowe, elders.

Stretford : Mr. Scoles, minister ; no elder.

Prestwich : No minister ; James Taylor, James Wroe, elders.

Didsbury, Flixton : } No minister ; no elder.

4.—Mr. Hollinworth gave an account from the Provintiall Assembly that there was a good appearance both of ministers

[1] The Lansdales were a yeoman family long settled at Worsley, and still extant.

& elders; the Synod was houlden, and severall matters had in debate.

5.—Next Provintiall Assembly to bee at Preston the second Wednesday in May next.

6.—A letter to bee sent to Mr. Isaac Allen desireing his appearance the next classe.

7.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Chorlton the third Wednesday in November next.

Mr. Jackson to preach the next classe.

Mr. Meeke moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in November next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 117th MEETEINGE at Manchester, November 11°, 1656.

1.—Mr. Jackson preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Meeke, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke; Mr. Buxton, Mr. Illingworth, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: No minister; John Sandiford, Lawrance Wright, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, senior, minister; Wim. Booth, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Phillipp Stampe, Wim. Higinbothom, elders.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Berron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Tho. Strangwaies, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chorlton, Johannes Barlowe, elder.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.
Ringley: Mr. Angier, junior, minister; no elder.
Eccles, Didsbury, Flixton, Prestwich, Ouldham: No minister; no elder.

4.—Agreed that a fast bee observed at Manchester, Wednesday, the third of December next, and that Mr. Gee and Mr. Tildesley bee sought unto to preach then.

☞ Upon the occasion of the sad breach made in the congregation by the death of Mr. Hollinworth, late minister there, to desire the Lord's guidance and assistance in the election of a minister to succeed him.

5.—Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Angier, & Mr. Harison are desired to speake to Mr. Allen and receive his answere in order to the letter sent unto him from Mr. Meeke, then moderator.

Mr. Leigh to preach next classe.

Mr. Meeke moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the second Tuesday in December next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 118 MEETEINGE at Manchester, December 9°, 1656.

1.—Mr. Leigh preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Meeke, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:—

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; Thomas Dickonson, Raphe Wollen, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Robt. Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; William Booth, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Wim. Higinbothom, an elder.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Rogers, Tho. Fylds, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; Edw. Sandiford, Samuel Scolfield, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chorlton, John Barlowe, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Sam. Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; no elder.

Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton, Ellenbroocke: No minister; no elder.

4.—It is agreed that letters of thanks bee sent to Mr. Gee & Mr. Tildesley for their paines in preaching upon a fast day at Manchester accordinge to the appointment of the classe.

5.—Agreed that a letter bee sent to Mr. Newcome to certifie him that the classis doe approve of him to bee a member thereof, and blesse God that Providence hath brought him hither.

6.—Agreed that an exercise bee observed at Stretford the third Wednesday in January next.

7.—Mr. Leigh preached before this classe, and at the desire of the congregation of Gorton was approved of to bee their minister.

Mr. Scoles to preach next classe.

Mr. Walker moderator next class.

Next classe the seacond Tuesday in January next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 119 MEETEINGE at Manchester, January 13°, 165$.

1.—Mr. Scoles preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Walker, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; Mr. Illingworth, Robert Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Mr. Isaac De-Howe, Lawrance Wright, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Wim. Booth, John Gee, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; William Higginbothom, Phillipp Stampe, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Tho. Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Tho. Edge, Tho. Filds, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Wim. Birtinshaw, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chorlton, John Barlowe, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; John Lees, James Lees, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Scoles, minister; no elder.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, jun^{r}, preacher; no elder.

Prestwich:

Didsbury:

Ellenbroocke:

Flixton:

4.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Salford the third Wednesday in February next.

Mr. Walker moderator next classe.

Mr. Holbroocke to preach next classe.
The next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in Feb. next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 120th MEETEINGE at Manchester, February 10th, 165$\frac{4}{5}$.

1.—Mr. Jones preached before the classe according to order.
2.—Mr. Walker, moderator, begun with prayer.
3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge.

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; Raphe Wollen, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.
Ashton-under-lyne: No minister; Captt Ashton, Robt. Leech, elders.
Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Peter Ashton, elders.
Ouldham: No minister; Francis Clegg, Joseph Hallowes, elders.
Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Rogers, Thomas Edge, elders.
Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Thos. Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.
Blakeley: No minister; John Travis, Samuel Tayler, elders.
Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Berron, Peter Ashton, elders.
Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; no elder.
Stretford: Mr. Scoles, minister; no elder.
Ringley: Mr. Angier, junior, minister; no elder.
Prestwich, Chorlton, Didsbury, Flixton, Ellenbroocke: No minister; no elder.

4.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Newton the third Wednesday in March next.

Mr Walker moderator next classe.

Mr. Walker to preach next classe.

Next classe the second Tuesday in March next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 121st MEETEINGE at Manchester, March 10°, 1654.

1.—Mr. Goulburne preached before the classe for Mr. Walker.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, for Mr. Walker, & begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Lancashire, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt Sandiford, Robt. Lees, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Robt. Turner, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Mr Stampe, Wim. Higginbothom, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Henry Wrigley, Esq., John Travis, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esq., Wim. Birtinshawe, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; John Barlowe, James Chorlton, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Ellenbroocke: No minister; no elder.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, jun^{r}, minister; no elder.

Newton, Didsbury, Flixton, Stretford, Eccles, Prestwich: No minister; no elder.

4.—John Ouldfield,[1] Robert Braban, and John Clayton,[2] being chosen elders for the congregation of Salford, and presented to this classe, were approved.

5.—DELEGATED from Manchester to attend the Provinciall Assembly at Preston the seacond Wednesday in May next are:

Mr. Constantine, Mr. Harison, Mr. Holland — ministers.

Captaine Ashton, Mr. Michael Buxton, Samuel Scolfield, Gyles Lomax, Richard Edge, William Higginbothom — elders.

7.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Gorton the third Wednesday in Aprill next.

Mr. Constantyne moderator next classe.

Mr. Walker to preach next classe.

Next classe the seacond Tuesday in Aprill next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

[1] John Ouldfield, woollen draper, of Manchester, occurs in the *Manchester Court Leet Records* in 1654, but not as an office holder till 1660. He died in 1662. Newcome preached at his funeral (July 9), and describes him as "one of the considerable good men." He was one of the citizens who had invited Newcome to Manchester, as was also Robert Braban, who appears also among the protestors of Salford in 164½.

[2] John Clayton, chapman, of Manchester, living in the Milngate, and appearing as an officer of the Leet from 1669–1673. Mr. Earwaker has printed an abstract of his will, dated 17 September, 1674, in *Manchester Court Leet Records*, p. 229. He was dead before the October Leet of the same year.

The 122th MEETEINGE at Manchester, April 14th, 1657.

1.—Mr. Walker preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; Mr. Wollen, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; no elder.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Lawrance Wright, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; John Ouldfield, John Clayton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Alexander Heron, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Bradshawe, minister; no elder.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; no elder.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, junior, preacher; no elder.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; no elder.

Didsbury, Flixton, Prestwich, Newton: No minister; no elder.

Ouldham: No minister; Henry Wrigley, Esq., John Smith, elders.

4.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Blakeley the third Wednesday in May next.

5.—Agreed that a letter bee sent to Stretford concerneinge Mr. Scoles leaveinge them.

Mr. Heyricke moderator next classe.

Mr. Meeke to preach the next classe.

Next classe the 2d Tuesday in May next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

6.—The next Provintiall Assembly to bee at Preston the first Tuesday in October next.[1]

The 123 MEETEINGE at Manchester, May 12,° 1657.

1.—Mr. Bradshawe preached before the classe for Mr. Meeke.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderPP deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Byrom, Robt. Bradshawe, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: No minister; Isaac Dehoue, Robt. Lees, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., William Booth, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; John Ouldfield, John Clayton, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Tho. Strangwayes, Esq., William Birtinshawe, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Scoles, minister; no elder.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Bradshaw, minister; Thomas Smith, Thomas Topinge, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; William Smith, Thos Edge, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; no elder.

Ouldham, Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton, & Ringley: No minister; no elder.

[1] This entry has evidently been misplaced by the transcriber or compiler of these minutes. It should occur under *June*, at the earliest.

4.—Mr. Bradshawe, minister at Ellenbroocke, by a generall consent of the classe, was dismissed from the congregation at Ellenbroocke.

5.—Mr. Jeremiah Scoles, minister at Stretford, was likewise dismissed from the congregacon at Stretford.

6.—Mr. Robt. Browne,[1] minister, is to give in his answeare the next classe concerneinge his removeall from Manchester into Stretford.

7.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Ellenbroocke the third Thursday in June next.

Mr. Harison moderator next classe.

Mr. Holland to preach the next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in June next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 124th MEETEINGE at Manchester, June 9°, 1657.

1.—Mr. Bowker preached before the classe for Mr. Holland.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Meare, Mr. Illingworth, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Captt Sandiford, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; no elder.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; John Lees, James Lees, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Fylds, Thomas Rogers, elders.

[1] For an account of the disturbance caused at Salford by Mr. Robert Browne, see Appendix, *sub nomine*, and Newcome's *Autob.*, p. 91.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Wim. Heginbothom, Robt. Braban, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Ellenbroocke: No minister; Thomas Smith, Thomas Topinge, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; John Barlow, James Chourlton, elders.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; no elder.

Prestwich: No minister; James Wroe, James Smethurst, elders.

Didsbury, Flixton, & Ringley: No minister; no elder.

4—Agreed that an exercise bee at Ashton-under-lyne the third Tuesday in July next.

Mr. Richardson to preach next classe.

Mr. Harison moderator next classe.

Next classe the seacond Tuesday in July next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

BY THE PROVINCIALL ASSEMBLIE,

At Preston, May 13°, 1657.

1.—Upon the account given by the ministers of the several classes according to the second order of the last assembly, it is resolved that the ministers of the severall classes that are ordinarily negligent in observeing the monethly meeteings therein mentioned bee (if they continue still negligent) called to appear before the next Provinciall Assembly to bee dealt with for the said negligence; and that the ministers now present in this assembly doe for theire respective classes take out a coppie of this order & deliver it to each of the said ministers so continueing negligent within their classis, haveing first inserted the name of the person to whom they are to deliver it, that hee may thereby understand himselfe sufficiently called to appeare as is abovesaid; and the same course to bee held in relation to the ruleinge elders that are soe negligent in those classes where the classical meeteings are kept.

3.—The sence of this assembly being that there may bee something of duty incumbent upon ministers and also upon congregationall elder^{ps} to bee done in relacon to all the severall persons of ripe years within their respective charges who doe either voluntarily & customarily refuse to comunicate with them in the L^{s} Supper, or to offer themselves to the elder^{pp} or minister of the place, to bee tryed and admitted to it, upon approvall, or upon triall or knowledge [and so] are judged at present unfitt for it, or with the competence in knowledge or the conscientious walking of them they are unacquainted or doubtfull: for their helpe in their spiritual state, & bringing them to a capacity & willingnes of the publicke comunion which they stand off from, by way of particular addresse to them; which yet is not ordinarily done: it is therefore resolved that the question what may

bee their duty in particular in the said matter, & what the meanes of performing it, bee referred to the serious consideration of every minister in this province generally, and of every classicall presbytery joyntly, & their judgment therein may bee given by themselves, or sent by their respective delegates to the next Provinciall Meeteinge.

Vera copia, EDWARD GEE.

The next Provinciall Meeteinge is to bee at Preston 1st Tuesday in October next.

The 125 MEETEINGE at Manchester, July 14°, 1657.

1.—Mr. Richardson preached before the [classe] according to order.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Illingworth, Raphe Wollen, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Robt. Leach, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Capt. Booth, Robt. Collier, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Edward Sandiford, Sam. Scolfield, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Tho. Strangwayes, Wim. Birtinshawe, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Wim. Higinbothom, Robt. Braban, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; no elder.

Ellenbroocke: No minister; Thomas Smith, Thomas Toping, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; no elder.

Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton, Blakeley, Ringley, Stretford: No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. John Angier, junior, M^r^ of Artes, aged 28 yeares, presented himselfe to ordination; hath beene examined in Greeke, Logicke, Philosophie, Ethicks, Phisicks, and Metaphisicks, & thus farr approved; had an instrum^tt^ given him to

bee affixed; his question—*an primum peccatum Adami sit vere et proprie nostrum.* Affir.

5.—Mr. William Coulborne, Batchalor of Arts, aged about 22 yeares, presented himselfe to ordinacon; hath beene examined in Hebrew, Greeke, Logicke, Philosophie, Ethics, Physicks, and Metaphisicks, and thus farr approved; had an instrum^{tt} given him to bee affixed; his question—*an datur justificatio formaliter sumpta ante actualem fidem et penitentiam.* Neg.

6.—Mr. John Angier, jun^{r}, and Mr. William Coulburne to bee ordeyned at Prestwich Aug. 13 next. Mr. Newcome to preach, Mr. Heyricke to give the exhortacon.

7.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Didsbury the third Tuesday in Aug. next.

Mr. Harison moderator next classe.

Mr. Constantine to preach the next classe.

Next classe the seacond Tuesday in August next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 126 MEETEINGE at Manchester, Aug. 11°, 1657.

1.—Mr. Constantine preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Newcome, minister; Mr. Buxton, Mr. Wollen, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Robert Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, senior; Capt. Booth, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Mr. Ouldfield, Robt. Brabant, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Edge, Thomas Fylds, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Alexander Heron, William Birtinshawe, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, an elder.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Ellenbroocke: No minister; Thomas Smith, Raphe Darbishire, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, jun^{r}, minister; no elder.

Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton, Stretford: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Angier hath beene examined in Divinitie, Cronologie, and ecclesiasticall history; returned his instrument affixed and subscribed; mainteyned a dispute on this posicon—*an primum peccatum Adami sit vere et proprie nostrum*, and approved.

5.—Mr. Coulburne hath been examined in Divinity, Cronologie, and ecclesiasticall history; returned his instrument affixed and subscribed; mainteyned a dispute on this posicon—*an datur justificatio formaliter sumpta ante actualem fidem et penitentiam*, and approved.

6.—An order was rec^{d} from the Provintiall Assembly w^{ch} is to bee considered on the next classicall meeting.

7.—*Whereas* Mr. John Angier, aged about 28 yeares, hath addressed himselfe . . . in the church of Ringley, in the county of Lancaster, . . . exercise thereof in the church of Ringley aforesaid, . . . set our hands the 13^{o} day of August, 1657.

John Harison, moderator.

John Angier, senior,	John Walker,	ministers.
Henry Newcome,	William Leigh,	
Robt. Constantine,	William Meeke,	
Tho. Holland,	Edmund Jones,	

8.—*Whereas* Mr. William Coulburne, aged about 22 yeares, hath addressed himselfe . . . in the church of Denton, in the county of Lancaster, . . . exercise thereof in the church of Denton aforesaid, . . . set our hands the 13° day of Aug., an° Dni, 1657.

John Harison, moderator.

John Angier, senior,	John Walker,	ministers.
Henry Newcome,	William Leigh,	
Robt. Constantyne,	William Meeke,	
Tho. Holland,	Edm. Jones,	

9.—Mr. Meeke, Mr. Walker to pray at the ordination.

10.—An order rec^d^ from the Provintiall Assembly w^ch^ is to bee considered at the next classicall meeteinge.

Mr. Harrison to preach the next classe.

Mr. Newcome moderator next classe.

Next classe the seacond Tuesday in September next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

11.—Mr. John Angier,[1] junior, haveing disputed his thesis, and it put to the vote whether hee should bee approved of to bee ordeyned, was approved of for his parts & abilitie, but in regard that the offence given by the former course of his life was objected, it was appointed by the classe the Mr. Angier, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Newcome, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Lee, & Mr. Meeke should speak unto & move him to make an acknowledgm^tt^ of his carriages before the congregacon thereby to

[1] The whole of minutes 7 and 8 have been erased in the original, and the numbering of minutes 9, 10, 11 altered to 7, 8, 9, and minute 12 has been added on the following page for want of room. In various transcripts, therefore, it incorrectly appears under the September meeting. The correction was evidently made by a reviser who was puzzled by minute 11. The whole points to three conclusions—(1) the original form of these minutes was notes and files of notices, and ordination documents. If the minutes of other religious associations of the time were of the same nature, it may account for their disappearance. (2) They were reduced to the form of the Cross Street *MS.* some time after the Restoration. (3) The original documents survived for the purposes of this recension till at least the end of the century. As I have said before they are not now known to exist.

evidence his sorrowe and true repentance for the same. Accordingly hee, the said Mr. Angier, was dealt with by the parties within named, and hee promised to give satisfaccon therein, & was thereupon approved to bee ordeyned.

12.—Aug. 13–57.

Ordination was had at the parish church of Prestwich of Mr. John Angeir, & Mr. William Coulburne. Mr. Meeke began with prayer, Mr. Newcome preached, Mr. Harison prayed after, Mr. Newcome (for Mr. Heyricke) propounded the questions and gave the exhortation. They received letters testimonial of their said ordination in the usuall forme, and they were subscribed by

John Harison, moderator.

John Angeir, sen^{r}.	John Walker.
Henry Newcome.	William Leigh.
Robt. Constantine.	William Meeke.
Tho. Holland.	Edmond Jones.

The 127 MEETEINGE at Manchester, September 8^{o}, 1657.

1.—Mr. Cawdree preached before the classe upon request.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator for Mr. Newcome, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Meare, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Cap^{tt} Sandiford, Isaac Dehoue, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, sen^{r}, minister; Robt. Stansfield, Robt. Turner, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Samuel Scolfield, John Lees, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Wm. Higinbothom, John Clayton, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chorlton, John Barlowe, elders.

Ellenbroocke: No minister, Raphe Darbishire, Thos. Topinge, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; no elder.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; no elder.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, jun^{r}, minister; no elder.

Prestwich,
Newton,
Didsbury,
Flixton,
Eccles,
} No minister; no elders.

4.—Delegated to attend the Provintiall at Preston the first Tuesday in October next.

Mr. Angier, sen^{r},	ministers.	Mr. Wickins,	elders.
Mr. Harison,		Mr. Ouldfield,	
Mr. Meeke,		Robt. Stansfield.	
		Thomas Topinge,	
		Raphe Darbishire,	

5.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Denton the third Tuesday in October next.

6.—Ordred that an exercise bee at Ringley the third Tuesday in November next.

Ordered that a faste bee observed in relation to the present sicknes[1] (viz^{t}) at Manchester, at Ashton-under-lyne, & at Ouldham, the three and twentieth day of September instant.

Mr. Newcome moderator next classe.

Mr. Mawrice to preach the next classe.

Next classe the 2^{o} Tuesday in October next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

[1] Newcome *Autob.*, p. 74—"This was a mighty sickly time in these parts. At an exercise in Middleton, August 27, I had a note of 15 persons put up to be prayed for."

The 128º MEETEINGE at Manchester, 13 Octo., 1657.

1.—Mr. Morris preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Newcome, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Leech, Robt. Lees, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Peter Ashton, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Wim. Higinbothom, John Clayton, elders.

Eccles: No minister; Thomas Fylds, Thomas Rogers, elders.

Ellenbroocke: No minister; Raphe Darbishire, Thomas Toping, elders.

Chorlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chorlton, John Barlowe, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Thomas Strangewaies, Alexander Heron, elders.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, junr, minister; Peter Seddon, an elder.

Blakeley, Prestwich, Flixton, Didsbury: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Agreed that the business concerneinge Ellenbroocke Chappell bee respited until the title [of Robert Browne] bee cleared to this classe, and in the meanetyme Mr. Coulburne and Mr. Davie to preach there one Sabbath day for an other.

5.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Chorlton Chappell the third Tuesday in December next.

6.—Mr. Harison gave an account from the Provintiall

Assembly. There was a synod and severall matters had in debate, especially the late difference between the elderpp of Bolton and Master Bradshawe[1] touchinge his suspension from the Lord's supper there: for the deciding of wch matter there was a committee appointed by the said assemblie to meete at Bolton further to enquire into it, and to prepare the whole matter for the Provinciall Assembly, wch was adjorned till the 11o of November, & to bee held at Bolton.

7.—For supply of members for the Provinciall Assemblie at Bolton in the room of many more that were delegated who might bee absent, these were further delegated in addicon to the delegation to the provinciall at Preston from this classe:

Mr. Newcome, minister. } Mr. Buxton, Peter Seddon, John Clayton, Thomas Filds, Thomas Lansdale, } elders.

8.—It being the course of this first classe to provide, Mr. Newcome was appointed to preach at the Provinciall Assemblie at Bolton aforesaid.

Mr. Newcome moderator next classe.

Mr. Harison to preach the next classe.

Next classe the seacond Tuesday in November next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 129o MEETEINGE at Manchester, November 10o, 1657.

1.—Mr. Harison preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Newcome, moderator, begun with prayer.

[1] See under "Banks" in appendix of ministers.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Capt. Booth, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Robt. Leech, elders.

Salford: Mr. Meeke, minister; Mr. Ouldfield, Robt. Braban, elders.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Francis Clegg, Joseph Hallowes, elders.

Eccles: No minister; Thomas Rogers, Thomas Edge, elders.

Ellenbroocke: No minister; Raphe Darbishire, Thomas Topinge, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, John Barlow, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Robt. Hulme, William Birtinshawe, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, jun^{r}, minister; no elder.

Blakeley: No minister; John Travis, Samuell Tayler, elders.

Didsbury, Flixton, Prestwich, Stretford: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Agreed that a day of thanksgiveinge bee at Manchester the third day of December for the settlement of this congregacon in respect of the ministry; as also for deliveringe the town from the late sicknes that hath raged in other parts.

Mr. Angier, Mr. Harison, to preach.

5.—Joshuah Taylor elected to bee an elder at Chourlton, and is approved of by this classe.

6.—Agreed that the exhortacon from this classe approved on by the assembly at Preston bee published in the severall congregations belonging to this classe the 22^{o} November instant.

7.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Salford the third Tuesday in January next.

Mr. Newcome to preach next classe.

Mr. Meeke moderator next classe.

Next classe the seacond Tuesday in December next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 130° MEETEINGE at Manchester, December 8°, 1657.

1.—Mr. Newcome preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, for Mr. Meeke, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Buxton, Mr. Lancashire, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Robert Collier, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Isaac Dehowe, Robt. Leech, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; Samuell Scolfield, Joseph Hallowes, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Gorton: No minister; Tho. Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Salford: No minister; Mr. Ouldfield, Robt. Braban, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, jun^{r}, minister; no elders.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, an elder.

Ellenbroocke, Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton, & Stretford: No minister; no elder.

4.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Newton the third Wednesday in Febr. next.

5.—The next Provinciall Assemblie to bee at Preston the first Wednesday in May next.

6.—An account was given by Mr. Angier from the Provinciall Assemblie at Bolton that the Lord did mightely helpe the synod in that matter after some tyme spent in very hot debate on both sides; yet at last both sides were inclyned before the synod to acknowledge wherein they had offended; Mr. Bradshawe in entertaineing Mr. Banks, a scandalous minister, at his chappell at Bradshawe, and the eldershipp at Bolton that they suspended Mr. Bradshawe from the sacrament before admonicon and due tryall. And the suspension was reversed, Mr. Bradshaw restored, and reconciliacon on both sides professed. And the next provinciall to bee *ut supra.*

7.—For reviseinge of the classis booke it is ordered that every Thursday till the next classe the ministers and elders shall meete, & three ministers & twoe elders shall bee of the quorum.

Mr. Meeke moderator next classe.

Mr. Angier, senior, to preach next classe.

Next classe the 2° Tuesday in January next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 131° MEETEINGE at Manchester, January 12°, 165⅞.

1.—Mr. Heyricke, for Mr. Angier, preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Angier for Mr. Meeke, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Meare, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Peter Ashton, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Capt. Sandiford, elders.

Salford: No minister; William Higginbothom, John Clayton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Wm. Birtinshawe, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Eccles: No minister; Thomas Fildes, Thomas Rogers, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Ouldham: No minister; Henry Wrigley, Esq., Francis Clegg, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coleburne, minister; Tho. Smith, Raphe Darbishire, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, junr, minister; no elder.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Prestwich,
Didsbury,
Flixton,
Stretford,
} No minister; no elder.

4.—A paper presented to the classe by Major Prestwich, Esq., Nicholas Mosley, Esq., Francis Mosley, Thomas Holland, Thomas Symonds, Capt. John Byrom, gentlemen, subscribed by

them and manie others, conteyneinge some exceptions[1] against the representacon agreed on and published this classe; to w^ch^ an answeare is promised the next classe.

[1] For an account of the contest between the classis and the royalist Episcopal "gentlemen" of the neighbourhood, see Newcome *Autob.*, p. 101, the narrative part of the "Censures of the Church," p. 27, and the later notices of it in these minutes. It is indicative of the reviving hopes of both parties alike, as the strong grasp of Cromwell was being relaxed. The Presbyterian ministers had from the first desired to restrict and control the admission to the Sacrament. The reproach of the Independents had at least had so much effect. In these later years of the Commonwealth it took the form of a determination to pursue the work of catechising and instruction, and in this aspect of it it had been encouraged by the action of Cromwell's last Parliament, which spent months over a bill "enjoining ministers and others to perform the duty of catechising." The bill passed the Commons on the 20th May, 1657 (C. J., vii. 535), but the Protector refused his assent to it. (Burton's *Diary*, ii. 203-5). It was on the 13th of May, 1657, while the bill was still in debate in the Commons, that the Provincial Assembly at Preston adopted its resolution declaring this instruction and preparation of communicants to be a duty, and referring the consideration of the subject to the various classes. (See *supra*, under June, 1657). On the 8th Sept., 1657, a "representation" drawn up by the first classis for the consideration of the Provincial Assembly was passed by the classe, though, curiously enough, there is no entry of this fact in these minutes. It met with the approval of the Provincial Assembly, and at the November meeting of the Manchester classis was in consequence ordered to be published in the several congregations of that classe. It was in answer to this that the "gentlemen's first paper" was written, and which was presented at the meeting in January, 165⅘. The reply of the ministers, which had been drawn up by Harrison, was adopted at a special meeting, Feb. 22, 165⅘, and this was answered by the gentlemen on the 9th March by a second paper, and by a third on the 13th of April. The matter was then referred to a committee, which met Mr. Nicholas Mosley, 28th April, to consider of an accommodation. The meeting was ineffectual, as was also another in the following month, and when the classis met in July, it found that the papers of both sides had been printed by the gentlemen "with a preface," under the title *Excommunicatio Excommunicata, or a censure of the Presbyterian censures and proceedings in the Classis at Manchester;* and it was as a counter-move to this that the classis printed its *Censures of the Church Revived.*

Its perusal illustrates the humbled tone and uncertain position of Presbyterianism at this time. The narrative part of the *Censures of the Church* is drawn "from the records of the class," and yet it contains much more matter than can be found in the minutes, proving conclusively that we have not here the original documents preserved to us in their entirety. (See preface.)

Major Prestwich was one of the three sons of Edmund Prestwich (*St. George's*

5.—Mr. Harison is desired to consider of and drawe up an answeare to the said paper before the next classe, and that some of the ministers meete a weeke before to consult about the same.

6.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Gorton the third Tuesday in March next.

7.—Ordered that every eldership give an account the next classe concerneinge publicke catachiseinge in their severall congregacons within this associacon.

8.—Forasmuch as Abraham Cundcliffe of Salford, for his notorious, often frequent, drunkennes, hath been proceeded against in the congregacon of Salford, according to order, to bee publickly admonished in the congregacon for the said fault, and that since the said publicke admonicon hee hath openly transgressed in the same thinge; upon complaint made thereof to this classe it is agreed that the said Abraham Cundcliffe bee sumoned to appeare before the next classe.

Visitation, p. 41), apparently John, who is described as of All Souls, Oxford, and whose administration was granted in 1679 at Chester. "He was among the defenders of Wythenshawe 164$\frac{3}{4}$ against the Parliament." (Earwaker's *E. Ch.*, i. 315.)

Nicholas Mosley of Ancoats, and J. P. for Lancashire county (Dugdale, p. 213) 26th Dec., 1611-1672. He is mentioned in the letter of Ralph Ashton to the Speaker of June 25, 1642, as trying to capture the magazine of Manchester for the King; was fined as a delinquent in 1643, and later compounded for his estates for £120. He made himself very merry with his friend Captain John Byrom at the Restoration. There is a great confusion in the *Manchester Court Leet Records* between two of this name, but it probably was he who was boroughreeve in 1642 and 1661. He was the author of *Ψυχοσοφία, or Natural and Divine Contemplations of the Passions and Faculties of the Soul of Man.* (See Mr. Bailey's note in *Manchester City News* "Notes and Queries, v. 289; *Local Gl.*, i. 248-254.)

Francis Mosley is described as of Collihurst in *Manchester Court Leet Records*, iv. 107; where see Mr. Earwaker's note. Died 1662. He had a son Nicholas, and the confusion which has arisen from this duplication of personality is not small. It appears in Ormerod's note on the name. (*Civil War Tracts*, p. 349.)

Thos. Holland may be the son of Ed. Holland of Heaton (Dugdale, p. 146). Will proved at Chester, 1664.

John Byrom "of Salford . . . sergeant major" (Dugdale, p. 68), baptized 5th Sept., 1619, buried March 11, 166$\frac{3}{8}$ (Newcome *Autob.*, 304). (See *Palatine Note Book*, iii. 88, and Mr. Earwaker's account of him, *Manchester Court Leet Records*, iv. 283.) His estates were among those of the sequestered Royalists in 1646.

9.—That the order about reviseinge the Register booke bee continued till the next classe, & it is greatly desired that somethinge bee done in the same before that tyme.

Mr. Angier, senior, moderator next classe.

Mr. Heyricke to preach next classe.

Next classe the seacond Tuesday in Feb. next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 132º MEETEINGE at Manchester, Febr 9, $165\frac{7}{8}$.

1.—Mr. Leigh preached before the classe for Mr. Angier, senior.

2.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Stansfield, John Gee, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Lawrance Wright, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Henry Wrigley, Esq., Samuel Scolfield, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esq., Alexander Heron, elders.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ellenbroocke: No minister; Thomas Smith, Thomas Arrowsmith, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Tayler, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thos Edge, an elder.

Salford, Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton, Ringley, Stretford: No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Harison, accordinge to the request of the classe, had drawne up an answeare to the paper wch was presented to this classe at their last meetinge by sundry gentlemen; wch gentlemen waiteinge for the said answeare at this tyme, it was agreed that this answeare should be returned to them, vizt:

That if they had directed their paper to any one single person the answeare might have been prepared and punctually delivered at the time. But since they had directed it to the whole assotiacon, there must bee tyme taken that the answeare may pass the considertion and approbacon of the whole classis. For wch reason, and for the transcribeing of coppies of it as was necessary, at present they could not deliver the said answeare, though it was in substance prepared, but the classe promised that it should bee sent in to some one of them (whom they should fixe on to receive it) some tyme before the next classe, without any further trouble to them.

They nominated Nicholas Mosley, Esq., to receive the paper from this classe.

5.—A classe is appointed to bee at Manchester the 22o day of Febr. instant, to conclude more speedily about the answeare to bee given to the aforesaid paper.

6.—Mr. Mort,[1] Peter Seddon,[2] junior, and Thomas Walworke, elected elders for the congregacon at Ringley, were approved of by this classe.

7.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Manchester the third Tuesday in Aprill next.

[1] Probably Nathan Mort, who died in 1677 (*Correspondence of Nathan Walworth and Peter Seddon*, Chet. Soc., p. viii.). [2] For Peter Seddon see note p. 50.

8.—Ordered that every elderPP give an account the next classe concerneinge publicke catachiseing as aforesd.

Mr. Angier, senior, moderator next classe.

Mr. Browne to preach next classe.

Next classe the seacond Tuesday in March next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 133o MEETEINGE at Manchester, Febr 23o, 165⅞.

1.—There was no sermon, it being a class extraordinary.

2.—The moderator and the members continued as in the classe before.

3.—The moderator began with prayer.

4.—The answeare to the gentlemen's paper was brought in, read and approved of; Mr. Buxton and Mr. Byrom desired to deliver the same to Nicholas Mosley of Ancoates, Esq., the day after.

5.—The classe returned thanks to Mr. Harison for his great paines hee had taken in drawinge up the foresaid answeare.

6.—As alsoe to Mr. Wickins and Mr. Birch for their paines in transcribing coppies of the same.

The moderator ended with prayer.

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